

Response ID ANON-16TS-CHP1-T

Submitted to **Future frameworks for international collaboration on research and innovation: call for evidence**

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About you

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Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an organisation

If responding on behalf of an organisation:

Organisation:

British Academy of Management

Learned society

What region of the UK are you predominantly based in?

Region:

Other

Are you happy for your response to be published?

Yes

Areas of interest

1 Methods by which new funding arrangements can:

Please provide your views here:

The British Academy of Management (BAM) welcomes the Adrian Smith Review into potential future UK funding schemes to promote international collaboration and blue-skies research and innovation. BAM is the leading authority on the academic field of business and management (B&M) in the UK. As a learned society, we support the community of scholars in this inter-disciplinary field and foster engagement with our international peers. We have around 2000 members, almost a quarter of whom are based outside of Britain, and who range from world-renowned thought leaders and top academics in our field to early career researchers and doctoral students.

Below we provide evidence for why we strongly believe that any new funding schemes should be undertaken alongside the negotiation of associated status in the next European framework programme (FP), Horizon Europe, and its related programmes. 'Associated' status would allow UK researchers to fully participate in Horizon Europe, offering them the same eligibility for funding as researchers from EU member states and ensuring that they may still host and lead projects as principal investigators. And though this historically has meant paying into the FP without a formal role in deciding its content, associated countries such as Norway have found some success in influencing its content and direction during the consultative phase – an example which the UK may wish to follow in future FPs once it has reached a satisfactory association agreement with the EU.

Our European colleagues are valued research partners in tackling questions crucial to our shared futures, and the European Framework Programmes have proven invaluable not only for filling domestic gaps in research funding, but also for fostering globally collaborative research with significant impact. No matter what form Brexit takes, it will bring significant changes to both the ease of international collaboration and to the UK research funding landscape, which has long been a net beneficiary of funding under the EU research framework programmes.

These coming challenges will affect all disciplines, including the UK business and management (B&M) research community, which has a vital role to play in the successful delivery of the Industrial Strategy for a more prosperous Britain. Business and management schools and university departments provide a powerful research base with proven impact, helping to improve leadership skills, raise productivity, and bring powerful change to working lives.

Much of the work of the B&M community – so important to inclusive national growth – has depended heavily on access to competitive European research funding in recent years. While overall research income for UK universities grew by 30% between 2011 and 2017, the B&M community faced a 25% decline in funding from the UK government and a 12% real-term decline in funding overall. [1] Yet, during this same period, research funding from EU government bodies increased by 38%. [2] In fact, a recent report by the Chartered Association of Business Schools (Chartered ABS) shows that 'in three of the last four years, Business and Management received more research funding from EU government bodies than the UK central government, and in 2016/17 the EU was only marginally behind

the research councils as the largest contributor' to the funding of our discipline. [3]

We therefore strongly believe that the UK government should prioritise seeking full association with the next European Framework Programme (Horizon Europe) and related programs like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and Erasmus +. Participation in the European Research Area (ERA) has helped our discipline thrive in the face of budget cuts, helped attract global talent to our universities, and fostered international collaboration at an unparalleled scale that increases impact and aids in finding global solutions to global problems. The framework programmes have the added tangible benefit of an established and proven reputation that draws the best and brightest global talent to participate, a factor that can only be achieved over time, and which is difficult for new arrangements to emulate in the near- to medium-term.

Any domestic schemes should thus aim to supplement fully associated participation in Horizon Europe and reinforce international collaborative research in a post-Brexit environment, as the UK has neither the depth of resources, nor scale, required to replace or reinvent such partnerships alone or in the short term. This would ensure a more stable and diverse research funding landscape, which would help protect the UK science community from unexpected future challenges.

NOTES:

[1] Infographic 'Research Adding Value,' jointly produced by the British Academy of Management and the Chartered Association of Business Schools (2018), available at:<https://charteredabs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Research-Adding-Value-Chartered-ABS-BAM.pdf>

[2] Research Income for Business & Management (Chartered Association of Business Schools, 2018), p. 5, available at:
https://charteredabs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Chartered_ABS_Research_Income_Report_2018-WEB.pdf

[3] Research Income for Business & Management (Chartered Association of Business Schools, 2018), p. 3, available at:
https://charteredabs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Chartered_ABS_Research_Income_Report_2018-WEB.pdf

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The UK research system has thus far had great success in recruiting not only the best and brightest global talent, but also those with valuable and needed skills, to its shores. Three out of every ten academics in the UK higher education system are of international origin.[4] As discussed below, UK-based researchers have been particularly successful in the current framework programme, Horizon 2020. There is, however, a valid concern that many of our most talented researchers will be lured away, if they are unable to participate in the prestigious competitive grants processes offered by Horizon Europe, and unable to lead and host such projects at UK institutions.

The numbers of international-origin staff are even higher in the B&M community, where the importance of being able to retain and recruit international talent is clear. In Business Studies 35% of academic staff in 2016/17 were of international origin, and in management studies this figure was 32%. In other words, roughly 1 out of every 3 researchers in the business and management community – which has around 8,000 staff on regular academic contracts – come from abroad. [5] At the research-intensive Russell Group universities, 50% of academics in business studies are of international origin, as are 42% of those in management studies. [6]

Significantly, more than half of all international-origin staff in business and management – across UK universities – come from the European Union. [7] After Brexit, EU staff will not only need to acquire visas for the first time, but – depending on the outcome of this Review and the negotiation process with the EU – they may also face the possibility of losing access to competitive research funding that they would otherwise be able to access in their home countries. Securing associated access to Horizon Europe, in conjunction with additional new UK schemes to fund international collaborative research, would undoubtedly help all disciplines to retain and recruit international staff of the highest quality, and reduce disruption to researchers and universities.

NOTES:

[4] <https://campaignforsocialscience.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-World-of-Talent-International-Staff-at-UK-Universities-the-Future-Migration-System.pdf>

[5] In 2016/17 international origin staff made up 35% of the 3,955 staff on regular academic contracts in business studies (N1), 32% of the 3,915 such staff in management studies (N5), and 30% of the 175 such staff in other business and administrative studies (N9). Analysis is of data sourced from the HESA Staff Record 2012/13-2016/17, undertaken in: Lenihan & Witherspoon (2018). A World of Talent: International Staff at UK Universities & the Future Migration System. Campaign for Social Science, available at:
<https://campaignforsocialscience.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-World-of-Talent-International-Staff-at-UK-Universities-the-Future-Migration-System.pdf>

[6] Lenihan & Witherspoon (2018). A World of Talent: International Staff at UK Universities & the Future Migration System. Campaign for Social Science, available at: <https://campaignforsocialscience.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-World-of-Talent-International-Staff-at-UK-Universities-the-Future-Migration-System.pdf>

[7] In Business Studies, 18% of the 3,955 academic staff in 2016/17 were from the EU, and in management studies 17% of the 3,915 academic staff were from the EU. Analysis is of data sourced from the HESA Staff Record 2012/13-2016/17, undertaken in: Lenihan & Witherspoon (2018). A World of Talent: International Staff at UK Universities & the Future Migration System. Campaign for Social Science, available at:
<https://campaignforsocialscience.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-World-of-Talent-International-Staff-at-UK-Universities-the-Future-Migration-System.pdf>

Please provide your views here:

We welcome the government's commitment to increase investment in research and development (R&D) to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, and its intent to reach a target of 3% of GDP in the future. This would help raise the comparative global ranking of the UK science and social science base and underpin the level of innovation required to address the Industrial Strategy's Grand Challenges.

Reaching these targets, however, may depend on our future relationship with the EU and its FPs. Foreign investment (including EU funding) currently accounts

for 26% of our current 1.67% GDP spend on R&D. [8] Ensuring continued access to these EU R&D funds through association with Horizon Europe and other programmes will thus be critical after the UK leaves the EU, especially if the public purse faces other constraints in the post-Brexit environment.

If these targets are to be met, work will also be needed to ensure public sector R&D spending is balanced and effective, and to encourage greater private sector spending. The B&M community is well placed to assist with new thinking about how to stimulate private-sector R&D investment. Representation from the learned societies representing this research base, such as the British Academy of Management (BAM) and the Chartered Association of Business Schools (Chartered ABS), should be included in any future government steering groups or discussions on this issue.

NOTES:

[8] <https://royalsociety.org/~media/policy/projects/investing-in-uk-r-and-d/where-are-we-now-total-uk-r-and-d-investment-as-percentage-of-gdp-large.jpg>

2 The optimum balance of emphasis for any new funding arrangements in each of the following dimensions:

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Any new research funding scheme should take a fully balanced approach to providing funding and support across all disciplines. The industrial strategy cannot be successfully implemented, or innovative blue skies thinking truly supported, if funding is heavily biased towards STEM-based research disciplines or offered only to particular business sectors. Interdisciplinary approaches are needed, and Business and Management as a core social science has a key role to play in answering the global challenges we face today – whether that is how to slow the rate of climate change or how to successfully navigate the digital revolution. The RECIRCULATE project, for example, is an international collaboration led by Lancaster University with partners in Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Kenya, funded by UK Research & Innovation through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). [9] It is helping to deliver innovative solutions to critical issues around water use and safety, by joining up scientific, social science, and management research to tackle specific community-based problems. Business and management research can play a particularly crucial role in helping bring new technologies to market in a commercially viable and sustainable manner.

NOTES:

[9] See: <http://recirculate.global/#stats>

3 Methods and timescales for introducing any new funding arrangements for international collaboration, including those that:

Please provide your views here:

Please provide your views here:

The European Research Council (ERC) provides a proven model of excellence-based international research funding, with elements that any new UK-based scheme should adopt. Its well-respected system of international peer review, combined with large-scale funding of early career researchers balanced across all disciplines, has helped it to build an excellent reputation in the research community. The next generation of outstanding researchers are especially attracted by these grants because of the prestige and career opportunities they create. Their focus on 'investigator-driven, or 'bottom-up' frontier research', funded on the basis of excellence rather than pre-defined political agendas, has promoted a healthy and vibrant European research base. It is also vital that any new UK research funding schemes intended to promote collaboration and blue skies research seek to emulate the ERC's flexibility and independence from government and political decision making.

In addition, any new mechanism for fostering international collaboration in the post-Brexit environment must also be supported by an easily navigable and fit-for-purpose immigration and visa system that does not place caps or unreasonable barriers to entry on skilled entrants. This would allow researchers the long and short-term mobility required both for internationally collaborative work, and allow universities to better recruit and retain global talent to the UK in future.

Building a reputation for quality international peer review will take time, and it would be unreasonable to believe that any new funding scheme could match the prestige associated with ERC and other grants in the short term. Moreover, it is important that the government take the time needed to scope and develop any new schemes, to ensure their governance is truly independent, and that they are easily navigable by researchers across disciplines and countries. Embracing full association with Horizon Europe would thus also provide the stability needed in the UK science and research community while allowing these processes to occur, and while widening the opportunities available to UK-based researchers.

4 The roles of Government, UKRI, National Academies and other organisations in defining the agenda for European and international collaboration and administering any new funding arrangements for such activities.

Please provide your views here:

5 Existing evidence on the efficiency and effectiveness of funding for international collaborations.

Please provide your views here:

The UK 'punches above its weight as a research nation' in large part due to the ability of our science community to parlay international collaborative research into impact. [10] A primary means of engaging in effective international collaboration for UK researchers has been participation in the EU FPs. The UK has long been a net beneficiary of funding from these programmes as well, receiving €3.4 billion more than it paid into the EU in research funding, development, and innovation activities between 2007 and 2013. [11] In fact, under FP7 the UK received the second largest proportion of funding relative to GDP and had the second largest number of participants and budget share of signed grant agreements. [12]

Though Horizon 2020 is ongoing, we also know that the UK has received 5.5 billion euros more than it contributed since 2014 and 13.63% of the total budget. [13] The UK has had 7,413 signed grant agreements since the Horizon 2020 began in 2014, accounting for 32.16% of all signed grants in the programme thus far. [14] In fact, 'UK researchers recorded almost a fifth of EU28 participations and of funding awarded for individual excellence across all disciplines, due to their relatively large share for European Research Council (ERC) awards and Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).' [15]

The ability to participate in these EU framework programmes has been especially important to the continued vibrancy of the social sciences. This includes business and management research, whose funding – as discussed above – has depended greatly on EU funding in recent years, as UK government funding of the discipline has declined. Analysis has shown that for over 20 years, 'UK social scientists may have benefitted to a greater extent from the EU funding and capacity building opportunities provided by EU programmes,' than social scientists in other countries or UK-based researchers in the other sciences. [16] Indeed, between 2007 and 2017, UK researchers from the social sciences and humanities (SSH) hosted almost a third of all ERC projects awarded grants in SSH disciplines. [17] While Brexit uncertainty appears to have impacted UK researcher participation in SSH-flagged topics across the Horizon 2020 societal challenges, UK SSH researchers still ranked 3rd among the EU 28 countries for participation in 2017, down from 1st place in 2014. [18]

A thorough review and evaluation of UK participation in the EU FPs across disciplines would be worth the time required, not only to highlight their undoubted utility to the research community and impact on society, but also for the valuable lessons that could be gleaned for any supplementary new UK funding scheme. For example, several recent EU evaluations of the FPs have highlighted the need for, and importance of, better integration and embedding of SSH research into attempts to address societal challenges through interdisciplinary work in a more meaningful and explicit way. [19] To this point, we have long argued that the B&M community can play a significantly larger role, enabling both better solutions to societal challenges and better delivery of the industrial strategy, with greater investment and inclusion into the structure of R&D spending. [20] We thus believe that any new mission-based funding schemes aimed at tackling societal challenges should specifically seek to firmly embed SSH research, including business and management research, and any new and supplementary funding scheme to promote blue skies and internationally collaborative research should be balanced across all disciplines.

NOTES:

[10] The International Comparative Performance of the UK Research Base: a report prepared for the UK's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) (London: Elsevier, 2013), available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263729/bis-13-1297-internationalcomparative-performance-of-the-UK-research-base-2013.pdf

[11] Most of this funding was received through framework programmes, with some additional funds coming through the auspices of the EU Structural Funds designated for research & development. See: Lenihan & Witherspoon (June 24, 2016). EU Referendum – Leave: What next for UK social science. Professional Briefing, Academy of Social Sciences and the Campaign for Social Science, available at:

<https://www.acss.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/EU-Referendum-%E2%80%93-Leave-%E2%80%93-What-next-for-UK-social-science-24-June-2016.pdf>;

and The Royal Society, UK Research and the European Union: The Role of the EU in Funding UK Research (London: The Royal Society, 2013), 12-13.

[12] See: Lenihan & Witherspoon (June 24, 2016). EU Referendum – Leave: What next for UK social science. Professional Briefing, Academy of Social Sciences and the Campaign for Social Science, available at:

<https://www.acss.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/EU-Referendum-%E2%80%93-Leave-%E2%80%93-What-next-for-UK-social-science-24-June-2016.pdf>;

and DG Research, Seventh FP7 Monitoring Report, Monitoring Report 2013 (Brussels: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation – Evaluation Unit, 2015), Annex F.

[13] See the H2020 Funded Projects live dashboard, available at:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/93297a69-09fd-4ef5-889f-b83c4e21d33e/sheet/a879124b-bfc3-493f-93a9-34f0e7fba124/state/analysis>

[14] See the H2020 Funded Projects live dashboard, available at:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/93297a69-09fd-4ef5-889f-b83c4e21d33e/sheet/a879124b-bfc3-493f-93a9-34f0e7fba124/state/analysis>

[15] Linda Hantrais. (2019) 'Towards closer disciplinary integration of international social research beyond Brexit,' working paper.

[16] Hantrais, L. and Thomas Lenihan, A. (2016) The implications of the EU referendum for UK social science: post-referendum options for UK social scientists. LSE Centre for International Studies working paper.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/international-relations/assets/documents/cis/working-papers/cis-working-paper-2016-03-hantrais-lenihan.pdf>

[17] Hantrais, L. and Thomas Lenihan, A. (2016) The implications of the EU referendum for UK social science: post-referendum options for UK social scientists. LSE Centre for International Studies working paper.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/international-relations/assets/documents/cis/working-papers/cis-working-paper-2016-03-hantrais-lenihan.pdf>

[18] Linda Hantrais. (2019) 'Towards closer disciplinary integration of international social research beyond Brexit,' working paper.

[19] See, e.g.: Hetel, L., Møller, T-E. and Stamm, J. (eds) (2015) Integration of social sciences and humanities in horizon 2020: participants, budget and disciplines. Monitoring report on SSH-flagged projects funded in 2014 under the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. https://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/other_pubs/integration_ssh_h2020.pdf; and Kania, K., Lemaire, C. and Swinnen, L.

(eds) (2019) Integration of social sciences and humanities in Horizon 2020: participants, budget and disciplines. 4th monitoring report on SSH-flagged projects funded in 2017 under the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership priorities. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

<https://www.kowi.de/Portaldata/2/Resourcen/horizon2020/H2020-report-integration-ssh.pdf>.

[20] See, e.g.: The Joint Response from the British Academy of Management and the Chartered Association of Business Schools to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee Inquiry on the Balance and effectiveness of research and innovation spending inquiry (10 October 2018), available at:

<https://www.bam.ac.uk/sites/bam.ac.uk/files/BAM-Chartered%20ABS%20Inquiry%20Response.pdf>.

6 Any other issues relating to this work that you wish to bring to our attention.

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