

# 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

Arts & Humanities Research Council  
Delivery Plan 2011-2015



# 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

Arts & Humanities Research Council  
Delivery Plan 2011-2015



# Delivery Plan: New Opportunities

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

Arts & Humanities Research Council  
Delivery Plan 2011-2015



- 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](http://www.connectedcommunities.ac.uk)*





# AHRC Themes



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

**Future Directions for Arts and  
Humanities Research:**

**A Consultation**

- 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

	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%
Core Programmes	36.9	72	36.8	72	36.7	72	36.4	72
Strategic Themes	12.3	24	12.3	24	12.3	24	12.5	24
Commissioned Research	2.0	4	2.0	4	2.0	4	2.0	4
Total	51.2		51.1		51.0		50.9	

*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 interdisciplinary 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



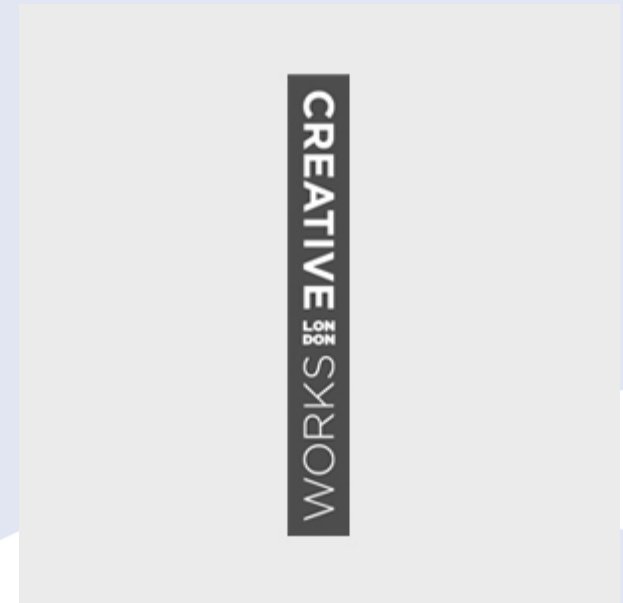
# International

- 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
  - *Parliament and Human Rights: Redressing the Democratic Deficit* report (2012)
- New course with Institute for Government on Public Policy



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

# 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