ARMA Research Office Survey 2020

A major survey of directors of UK research offices: structures, staffing and trends



The survey reflects the challenging and evolving landscape for the research management profession, driven by complexity, scale and a hugely varied set of compliance requirements

The participants



54

Universities

Research incomes range from

£100k to £580m

1/3

of the UK's HEIs

Responsibilities and resourcing across

19 functional areas

Are managing 42% of the

£6.2bn research grants and contracts income (HESA 2017-18)

2,011

Full-Time Equivalent staff members (FTEs) reported FTEs per RO range from

120_{to} 1

Extrapolated to all UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the survey suggests research offices account for 4,700 FTEs.

Research Office structures



60% are part of a
Research & Innovation
or Research &
Enterprise office

Only 40% are stand alone
Research Offices (ROs)

61% are centrally-based

33% combine central and devolved services

Directors of Research & Innovation/Enterprise are now the most common senior professional responsible for research.

Participants by size of research income & FTE levels



Group A
8 HEIs with
over £100m

Group **B**

12 HEIs with £30m - £100m Group C

13 HEIs with £10m - £30m

Group **D**

8 HEIs with £5m - £10m Group **E**

12 HEIs with under £5m

Size of ROs

80 FTEs 50 FTEs average average

31 FTEs average

39 FTEs average

12 FTEs average

The survey participants represent the range of university research incomes and staffing levels. (Research income is based on the HESA Research Grants and Contracts figure for 2017-18)

The top five functional areas by FTE numbers



Pre-award & costing (326)

Research business development (300)

Research Contracts (180)

Research Finance (148)

Governance, ethics & integrity (124)

16%

15%

9%

7%

6%

For business development and research contracts the majority of FTEs are located in the largest universities (>£30m+). But for REF support, pre-award and post-award, the FTEs are distributed more evenly.

ARMA Research Office Survey 2020 | Benchmarking UK Institutional Research Offices



