

## RESEARCH COMPUTING SUPPORT

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In the light of Full Economic Costing and the recent re-organization of Computing within the School of Informatics there should now be a new resource model for supporting Research Computing. We propose such a new resource model below in the hope that this can be accepted by everyone as a positive way to move forward.

We intend that, should it be accepted, this new resource model will be in place for the centralization of research activity within the Informatics Forum. To ensure this happens progress on implementation would be monitored by the Computing Strategy Group which has effective representation from both PRC and the Computing Executive Group.

### A NEW RESOURCE MODEL FOR RESEARCH COMPUTING SUPPORT IN THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

Fundamentally the new resource model is summarized as *effort follows money* and *effort is accountable*. That a research grant includes a percentage of CO effort over a period of time will form the basis of effort allocation between the Computing body and the Institute that the grant belongs to. That this effort should be sufficiently accountable to satisfy the School as well as the FEC requirements of the United Kingdom and European Union. The key points of this new resource model are that:

- it is formally accepted and supported by PRC and the Head of School.
- the amount of effort each PI pays for and the corresponding effort received is transparent and public.
- for the duration of a research grant the Institute and PI are aware what effort they have used already (and on what), is being used (and on what) and remains.
- the School provides sufficient budgetary and research grant information to make the transparent allocation of effort possible.
- effort is initially clustered by Institute so that an Institute can, if necessary, prioritize which tasks on which research grants receive effort and allow effort to be made available to new lecturers. Other clustering models could be supported in the future.
- CO effort is allocated on a task-by-task basis and where possible the same CO staff will remain on a task until the completion of that task.
- it provides continuity of support such that where possible

the same CO staff are assigned to each sequential task that forms part of the work of a research grant.

- there is a regular Development Meeting where tasks requiring more than a few weeks effort are proposed, allocated and monitored.
- a contract for support is set up between the PI and the Head of the Research and Teaching Unit for each specific task on a research grant before work on that task can start, however contact is then in general directly between the PI and the CO staff allocated to that task.
- effort is available to PI's as and when they need. However, since effort and skills are not available at all times there will be prioritization conflicts. Where possible these are addressed by the Head of the Research and Teaching Unit but if necessary they can also be addressed within an Institute (by choosing which tasks to favor) or where the conflict occurs across Computing Units by members of CEG, across Institutes by members of CSG and as a last resort at PRC.
- effort is provided from the Research and Teaching Unit except when specific skills or extra effort must be contracted in from other Units, in which case, for significant tasks effort is allocated via the Development Meeting and for other tasks effort is allocated by members of CEG or by agreement between the Heads of the Units involved. Effort contracted in is accountable and transparent in the same way as effort within the Unit.
- the available effort for generic research support (not Institute specific) is explicitly budgeted by CSG.
- the available effort for generic and specific teaching support is explicitly budgeted by CSG.
- CSO effort above commodity level falls under generic research (or teaching) support.
- the Head of the Research and Teaching Unit will:
  - provide an *effort* budget for each Institute so that each Institute and PI is aware of the amount of effort they have available at any one time.
  - allocate CO effort by assigning CO staff to tasks on a research grant when requested by the Institute and PI.
  - act as a single liaison contact for each Institute and PI.
  - be involved in all research grant submissions requiring CO effort so as to plan for future resourcing requirements, minimize prioritization conflicts and duplication of effort and ensure that effort purchased is realistic for work required.
  - line manage all the computing staff involved.