Enhancing international collaboration: The role of Trusted Research at Nottingham

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• The challenge at Nottingham
• How have we responded?
• Collaborating with Overseas Campus
• Outside of STEM
• Key Takeaways
Nottingham has more than 46,000 students and 7,000 staff across the UK, China and Malaysia and had an income of £792.2 million in 2021–22, of which £131.4 million was from research grants and contracts.
To enhance, increase and deepen International collaboration
Our approach

Trusted Research Team in Research Operations

- 'One stop' for Due Diligence; Export/Import Controls; Financial Due Diligence; NS&I; Nagoya Protocols and any other applicable Regulations in a Research setting.
  - Initially for Research and Innovation but now supporting new Teaching Partnerships and wider forms of international engagement

- Project Notification Form (PI to complete)
  - For all new international partnerships
  - What the Project is; with whom and why; where the partners are based (with address and contact details); which sector; and if any money is being transferred to or from UNUK
  - Sign-off; Interview with PI; Escalate to Faculty/University
Our approach (cont’d)

- Low/Medium/High risk
  - Due diligence
    - 20 sources of public information e.g. OFSI; US Entity and MEU Lists; ASPI Tracker;
  - Commercial tool
  - Financial Due Diligence against certain thresholds to initiate mitigation plans as per UKRI guidance
Trusted Research progress at Nottingham

• Last year over 700 Project Notification Forms completed with a minimum of one partner
• On track for over 2,000 Project Notifications Forms this year
• Trusted Research and Export Controls training University wide and bespoke to high risk areas
• Collaboration with Overseas Campus
The Compliance Ecosystem

- Contracts
- Ethics
- Cybersecurity
- Institution-wide Due Diligence
- Overseas Campus ‘Research Risk’
- RCAT

Trusted Research
Parallel work at our Overseas Campus
Focus on cross Campus collaborations
- Trusted Research for UNUK staff e.g. partial secondment
- Cross Campus RKE initiatives
- ‘Research Risk’ e.g. PIPL
Beyond STEM

- IPO Data
- Government Officials
- Leadership issues
Key takeaways

• Trusted Research is everybody’s business
• University Executive Board engagement
• Researcher Academy (early career researchers)
• Senior academics
• Professional service staff
Key takeaways

- Trusted’ face of compliance to both individual and Institution
  - Names of the Team on auto response email
  - Skilled practitioners
  - Responsive to short notice deadlines
  - Sensitive conversations
  - Respond to every query-every contact can become an Ambassador
  - Complete transparency particularly around escalation of PNFs
Key takeaways

• ‘Volunteer’ for everything
• Faculty; Schools, Operations Group; R&KE Teams; Ethics Committee; ECR events;
• Tailored training to our Overseas Campus-what they should expect working with us in the UK
Key takeaways

• Monitoring
  • Number of Academic and Professional Service who have attended Training by School/Faculty
  • Seniority of academic attendees
  • Catch up with Faculty leadership around engagement
  • Target Schools with low uptake