

Research Income Report

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Income recognised on the books based on expenditure and overheads charged on research projects

Comparison of Actual Research Income to Financial Plan data and Strategic Plan KPIs (£'000)

Percentage figures: actuals in percentage of plan data

Schools	Actuals (Gross income)	Financial Plan		Strategic Plan KPI	
Cass	976	1,721	57%	1,336	73%
SHS	1,525	2,300	66%	3,509	43%
SMCSE	4,348	5,407	80%	5,328	82%
SASS	1,371	2,600	53%	1,557	88%
CLS	0	0	-	110	0%
All Schools - summary of above	8,220	12,028	68%	11,839	69%
Strategic Plan milestone - Overall City KPI				14,183	58%

Report date: 76% of the year passed

The research income development continues as predicted. The actual income will most likely remain behind target. The order book of new awards received or in negotiation looks healthy but the effect on research income will only be seen in future financial years. CLS had recently had two awards confirmed. One of them is a European collaboration for the training of researchers.

Instead of details on applications and awards some further analysis on our key funders to provide some thought for strategic leadership:

Over the years the key funders have not changed which is not surprising. It reflects the research areas within City University London which are most active in income generation. More important to recognise is our reliance on them in terms of research income.

5 key funders with percentage of current research income in brackets: EPSRC (20%), the European Commission FP7 and H2020 programmes (20%), NIHR (13%), ESRC (6%), Innovate UK (5%).

The EPSRC grants are mainly located in SMCSE/ Engineering. However, the currently biggest EPSRC award is held by Professor Charles Baden-Fuller in Cass in the thematic area of innovation and business modelling. Compliance with the EPSRC Framework for Data Sharing is most important to continue a good relationship with the EPSRC. Non-compliance could bring sanctions that would hit our future ability to gain EPSRC grants. Management of that compliance is the responsibility of the Research and Enterprise Office. While the EPSRC is a key funder for City University London our institution is mid-field in the list of grant holding organisations from the EPSRC perspective.

Networking with other organisations, especially some of the key players in the field will be important to retain our income in future. The majority of recently awarded grants are in fact collaborative.

The income from the European Commission would not be threatened by Brexit. Research frameworks are negotiated for a particular period and include non-EC partners. But even if the UK remains within the EU income from EC research frameworks cannot grow without consideration of post-award support as the demand on academic lead time to do reporting and administrative tasks is incomparable to an EPSRC award for example. Looking purely at the figures this dimension is easily underestimated. Currency exchange uncertainty adds to the hidden cost of running EC projects.

The income is generated by a base of 114 academic staff with fairly equal income percentages. This is encouraging compared to similar analysis in the past. It shows the effect of widening the research base within City University London.