

U21

UNIVERSITAS 21

Researcher Engagement
Cluster Meeting

Research Leaders' Programme

Sunday 10 – Tuesday 12 March 2019
University of Birmingham

Universitas 21 Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting 2019

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Start date: Sunday 10 March 2019

End date: Tuesday 12 March 2019

Location: University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK

Summary

The annual Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting for Research Leaders and Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies will take place at the University of Birmingham 10–12 March 2019. As usual, there will be a joint session for both RLs and DDoGS before the two groups hold parallel meetings. In addition, the DDoGS will be holding a pre-meeting workshop on Sunday 10 March.

Research Leaders Meeting

All senior colleagues directly involved in the oversight of, research impact, collaborations and connections with industry are invited to attend the RL meeting. Best practice will be shared along with discussions covering matters related to global research, international research connections, development of Early Career Researchers, impact and research integrity. Key themes to be addressed at the meeting:

- Research-intensive teaching (how does the research-intensive nature of our universities impact on teaching and the student learning experience?); approaches, examples of best practice
- Development Programmes for Mid-Career Faculty (defined for these purposes as Associate Professor level or equivalent) targeting development of research capabilities: showcasing what your university already offers / research in to MCF development and training (we aim to run a workshop around this to further develop the idea of a U21 MCF programme)
- EU/International collaborative funding; diversifying funding streams, impact of Brexit, examples of best practice
- Knowledge Exchange Framework (a report from the UK on the development of a national KEF assessment exercise to supplement the REF)

Pre-meeting workshop hosted by DDoGS

The DDoGS Workshop is now a regular addition to the RE Cluster meeting. This year the theme will be 'International Research Communities: Addressing the Challenges'. Research Leaders are also invited to attend the workshop.

DDoGS Meeting

All senior colleagues directly involved in the oversight of Graduate Schools, graduate student experience and supervisor development are invited to DDoGS meeting. The group will share best practice, discuss contemporary developments in graduate researcher education and review collaborative activities across the U21 network. Key themes to be addressed at the meeting:

- Re-modelling the PhD: rethinking the purpose of research
- Developing careers/training provision for PGRs
- Mental health and wellbeing
- How can we collaborate? How can we increase doctoral mobility (develop supervisor/candidate checklist)?
- Intellectual property and joint PhDs

Joint Meeting

Ahead of the separate meetings, the RLs and DDoGS hold a joint meeting to cover general Researcher Engagement business. It will also feature talks and discussion on the theme of development of innovation and enterprise skills for graduate students and early-career researchers to support their engagement with business and industry.

Host University – University of Birmingham

The University grew out of the radical vision of our first Chancellor, Joseph Chamberlain. Founded in 1900, Birmingham represented a new model for higher education. This was England's first civic university, where students from all religions and backgrounds were accepted on an equal basis.

The University of Birmingham has welcomed international students since 1900. Today we have one of the largest international student communities in the UK with over 5,000 students from more than 150 countries worldwide currently studying with us.

Birmingham has been challenging and developing great minds for more than a century. Characterised by a tradition of innovation, research at the University has broken new ground, pushed forward the boundaries of knowledge and made an impact on people's lives.

It continues this tradition today and has ambitions for a future that will embed their work and recognition of the Birmingham name on the international stage.

Social Events

Welcome Cocktail Reception

Sunday 10 March

(Dress Code: smart/casual)

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: The Composers' Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road

Researcher Engagement Cluster Dinner

Monday 11 March

(Dress Code: smart/casual)

Time: 19.00 - 21.30

Venue: Lloyd Room, Hornton Grange, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road

List of Delegates

Note that this list includes delegates for three separate events taking place across 10-12 March.

Professor Sir David Eastwood	Vice Chancellor	University of Birmingham
Marc Adams	People and Organisational Development Consultant	University of Birmingham
Professor Kathy Armour	U21 Chair of Educational Innovation Steering Group, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)	University of Birmingham
Belinda Bern	Director, Graduate School	University Queensland
Dr Eren Birgen	PGR Community Engagement Officer	University of Birmingham
Professor Pedro Bouchon	Vice President for Research	Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
Dr Janet Carton	Graduate Education Development Manager	University College Dublin
Dr Amrit Chandan	Co-founder & CEO	ACELERON
Dr Robert Charnock	Lecturer in Accounting	University of Birmingham
Dr Diego Cosmelli	Director of the Graduate School	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Associate Professor Caroline Daley	Chair of U21 DDoGS, Dean of Graduate Studies	University of Auckland
Dr Paul Dodd	Associate Vice Chancellor Office of Research	University of California, Davis
Professor Barbara Dooley	Dean of Graduate Studies & Deputy Registrar	University College Dublin
Katharine D'Souza	University Graduate School Data Officer	University of Birmingham
Helen Eastham	Head of International Student Advisory Services	University of Birmingham
Rachel Edwards	Communications Manager	Universitas 21
Professor Orla Feely	Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD	University College Dublin
Dr Steve Fetter	Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School	University of Maryland College Park
Professor Nicholas Fisk	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research	UNSW Sydney
Jeffrey Franke	Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff	University of Maryland
Caroline Hetherington	Student Experience Manager	Universitas 21
Tracey Hill	PA to Tim Softley	University of Birmingham

Dr Kent Holsinger	Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School	University of Connecticut
Professor Andy Hor	Chair of U21 Research Leaders, Vice President & Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)	The University of Hong Kong
Professor Dong-Yan Jin	Associate Dean of Graduate School	The University of Hong Kong
Miss Lucy Jones	Director, Graduate Research School	UNSW Sydney
Gurmit Kler	Director of Business Engagement	University of Birmingham
Dr Laurie Locascio	Vice President for Research	University of Maryland
Dr Richard Masterman	APVC for Research Strategy and Performance	University of Nottingham
Hayley Maxwell	Director of English for Academic Purposes	University of Birmingham
Dr Andrea Mazzeo	Research Fellow at University of Birmingham	University of Birmingham
Dr Hamish McAlpine	Head of Knowledge Exchange Data and Evidence	Research England
Professor Alastair McEwan	Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research & Training, Dean Graduate School	University of Queensland
Professor Julie McLeod	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability)	University of Melbourne
Professor Arturo Molina	Vice-president of Research and Technology Transfer	Tecnologico de Monterrey
Professor Jonathan Morris	Dean of Graduate Research	UNSW Sydney
Dr Karen Mossman	Associate Vice President Research	McMaster University
Professor Shireen Motala	Senior Director: Postgraduate School	University of Johannesburg
Dr Linda Mtwisha	Senior Director: Strategic Initiatives and Administration	University of Johannesburg
Professor Ulrike Müller-Böker	Director of Graduate Campus	University of Zurich
Vincent O'Grady	People and Organisational Development Consultant	University of Birmingham
Andrea Patel	Manager, Graduate School	University of Birmingham
Professor Bairbre Redmond	Provost	U21
Xavier Rodde	U21 Research Collaboration Group Co-Chair/Chair-Elect, Head of European and International Research Support	University of Birmingham
Professor Miguel Angel Romero Ogawa	Associate Vice Provost for Research and Technology Transfer	Tecnologico de Monterrey

Professor Gavin Schaffer	Director of Postgraduate Studies	University of Birmingham
Professor Tim Softley	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Transfer)	University of Birmingham
Professor Stacey Sorensen	Pro Vice Chancellor Research	Lund university
Dr Zhongbei Tian	Research Fellow at University of Birmingham	University of Birmingham
Dr Connie Wan	Researcher Engagement Manager	Universitas 21
Dr Jane Wellens	Head of the Graduate School	University of Nottingham
Dr James Wilkie	Director, Enterprise & Innovation	University of Birmingham

Accommodation

[Edgbaston Park Hotel](#), Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road

Green Zone, G23 on the Campus Map:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/edgbaston-campus-map.pdf>

Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre is part of the University of Birmingham Group. The University of Birmingham, one of the world's top 100 institutions, has always been a pioneer: founded in 1900, it was the UK's first civic university, welcoming students regardless of their social or religious background. Today, it continues to make important things happen. It's a vibrant community which thrives on being innovative, original and ambitious.

As befits the diverse international community of Edgbaston, the hotel provides visitors with an inspiring place to meet and stay, in a quiet spot on the edge of campus.

The hotel and conference centre are on Edgbaston Park Road, near to the University of Birmingham's other conference facilities. From Birmingham city centre, it's a 2-mile drive to the hotel, which should take around 11 minutes. University train station is a 15-minute walk, with a high-frequency 6-minute service direct to Birmingham New Street.

The hotel's full address is:

Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre
53 Edgbaston Park Road
Birmingham
B15 2RS

Booking

To book accommodation at Edgbaston Park Hotel you must either send an email to Lucy Woods or Matthew Arnott at reservations@edgbastonparkhotel.com or telephone Lucy at +44 (121) 414 9780 or Matthew at +44 (121) 414 9779. Make sure that you quote the booking reference code RESEARCH19. This will enable you to book a Standard Double room at the rate of £99 B&B (Single occupancy). www.edgbastonparkhotel.com

Contacts

Dr Connie Wan

Researcher Engagement Manager, Universitas 21

Phone: +44 (0)121 414 4786

Mobile: +44 (0)7900 257597 – **NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER IS NEW**

Email and Skype: connie.wan@universitas21.com

Strathcona 109, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Tracey Hill

PA to Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Softley (Research and Knowledge Transfer)

Email: t.hill.1@bham.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0)121 414 3978

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Transport

Taxi

- [TOA taxis](#): +44 (0)121 427 8888
- [A2B Radio Cars](#): +44 (0)121 744 1111
- Uber

From Birmingham New St Station to the hotel the taxi fare is approximately £10. From Birmingham International Airport to the hotel it will cost approximately £30-40. An Uber will cost approximately £25-£35.

By rail

Most cross-country services to Birmingham arrive at New Street Station. Up to six trains an hour depart for the University on the cross-city line (ten minutes to University station, final destination Longbridge or Redditch). The hotel is a fifteen-minute walk from University Station. See the [campus map](#) for directions.

By bus

Buses take contactless payments on board (fees vary but usually a single journey is no more than £3). Numbers X61 and 63 travel from the Bus Mall, Moor Street Queensway, and from New Street Station, St Martin's Queensway, to the Bristol Road, at the corner of Edgbaston Park Road. The services all run frequently from the city centre.

Online bus timetables for [X61](#) and [63](#) are available on the [National Express West Midlands website](#)

There is a travel information office outside New Street Station, where you can obtain bus timetables and departure point information. Maps can be found throughout the city centre indicating bus stop locations. You can also access Network West Midlands' [Live Travel Map](#) for current rail and bus information.

Emergency contacts – UK

For any emergencies or issues please contact

Dr Connie Wan

Researcher Engagement Manager, Universitas 21

Phone: +44 (0)121 414 4786

Mobile: +44 (0)7900 257597 - **NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER IS NEW**

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If the situation or emergency is life threatening please use the following contacts in the first instance, then contact the meeting administration team.

Ambulance/Police/Fire Brigade – emergency only

Phone: 999

Urgent Medical Concerns (non-emergency)

Phone: 111

Catering

Teas and coffees will be available on arrival to the programmed meetings, as well as lunches. There will be plenty of vegetarian and some gluten-free options available – if you have any specific dietary requirements, please contact Connie Wan (connie.wan@universitas21.com) well in advance. Note that there is no additional charge for the Researcher Engagement Dinner on the evening of Monday 11 March.

Wireless Internet

Delegates will be able to connect to wireless internet via Eduroam, a secure, world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community. There is also a guest network for those who are not able to access Eduroam. Log in details will be provided at the meeting.

Visit Birmingham

Things to see and do:

On Campus:

[Barber Institute of Fine Arts](#)

Monet, Manet and Magritte; Renoir, Rubens, Rossetti and Rodin; Degas, Delacroix and Van Dyck - as well as Botticelli, Poussin, Turner, Gainsborough, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Bellows, Hodgkin and Auerbach...You can see key works by all these- and many more- great artists in the galleries at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. There's also a stunning coin gallery and an exciting programme of exhibitions, concerts, lectures, gallery talks and workshops.

[The Lapworth Museum of Geology](#)

Enabling visitors to explore life over the past 3.5 billion years, the Lapworth Museum showcases exceptional objects from one of the UK's most outstanding geological collections, with state-of-the-art galleries and a range of innovative and interactive exhibits - all completely free of charge. From rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes, and even dinosaurs, the Museum captures the imagination of all ages.

[Winterbourne House and Garden](#)

Experience an Edwardian historic house and garden nestled in a leafy corner of Birmingham, a stone's throw from the University of Birmingham. The house was built for John Nettlefold, a pioneer of early housing reform in Birmingham at a time when the city had a serious lack of decent homes for working people. John and his wife Margaret were from prestigious local families who had made their living in industry. Choosing their house to be designed in the Arts and Crafts style reflected their modern outlook. The botanical garden features a 7 acre oasis, home to over 6000 different plant species. Escape the modern world in period rooms filled with antiques and Edwardian era soft furnishings. As you stroll around the house, learn about the families that lived here and how Winterbourne came to be part of the University of Birmingham.

City Centre and beyond:

[Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery](#)

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) first opened in 1885. It is housed in a Grade II* listed city centre landmark building. There are over 40 galleries to explore that display art, applied art, social history, archaeology and ethnography. The art gallery is famous for its Pre-Raphaelite paintings, which are part of the largest public Pre-Raphaelite collection in the world. Discover the fascinating story of the Staffordshire Hoard, the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found, in its own dedicated gallery.

[Coffin Works](#)

A unique museum dedicated to coffin making based in the old Newman Brothers factory. Transport yourself back to the factory's heyday in the 1960s and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and smells of factory life during this decade. The shelves and workbenches at Newman Brothers are full of original stock and tools of the trade. With the original machinery working again, you can truly experience how this old Jewellery Quarter firm once operated on a day-to-day basis, producing some of the world's finest coffin furniture, including the fittings for the funerals of Joseph Chamberlain, Winston Churchill and the Queen Mother.

[Bullring and Grand Central](#)

Birmingham's premier shopping destinations with highstreet and designer shops.

[IKON Gallery](#)

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed art gallery situated in central Birmingham. Housed in a magnificent neo-gothic school building, it is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. It offers free entry to all.

Places to eat

In Birmingham you will find a host of international cuisines; a few choice restaurants are listed below. The city is also home to the Balti; a curry made in a steel wok-shaped bowl ('balti' translates to 'bucket' in Urdu and Hindi). You will find an array of Balti restaurants in Birmingham – especially in the Balti Triangle where you can eat like royalty for £10-15.

Key: £ = £10 and under for a main meal / ££ = £10-£20 / £££ = £20+

Venue/Address	Style/£££	Hours
The Physician Harborne Road, , Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3DH 0121 2725 900	Traditional pub restaurant serving fresh food, cask ales, gin and wine. The Physician is housed the old Birmingham Medical Institute building that held the vast Sampson Gangee Library for the History of Medicine. ££	Monday – Saturday Open 10am – 11pm Food Served 10am – 10pm Sunday Open 10am – 10:30pm Food Served 10am – 9pm
Opus 54 Cornwall Street, Birmingham, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323	Opus Restaurant is a contemporary fine-dining restaurant in Birmingham's City centre. Representing an outstanding commitment to the best seasonal ingredients, their kitchen is ingredient-led, buying each day from our family of suppliers around the British Isles. £££	Monday – Thursday: 12pm-2pm 5.30pm-8.30pm* Friday: 12pm -2pm* 5.30pm – 9.00pm* Saturday: 5.30pm-9.30pm* *Last orders
Laghi's Deli 22-24 Islington Row, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1LD 0121 455 0660	Independent Italian Restaurant and Deli offering high quality freshly prepared food in a warm & friendly welcoming atmosphere. Why not check out their cookery courses on your visit? £	Open at 8am daily until 11.30pm
Lasan 3 – 4 Dakota Buildings, James Street, St Paul's Square, Birmingham B3 1SD 0121 212 3664	Contemporary Indian fine dining, Lasan is based in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. £££	Monday-Saturday: 12pm – 2:30 pm 6pm – 11pm Sunday: 12pm – 9pm
Sabai Sabai 268 High St, Harborne, B17 9PT 0121 426 2688	Award-winning Thai food in a contemporary setting with a classic cocktail menu. ££	Monday – Friday: 12–3pm 5–10:30pm Saturday – Sunday : 12–10:30pm
Ken Ho 41-43 Hurst St, Birmingham B5 4BJ	Traditional Chinese restaurant known to serve excellent dim sum. Based in Birmingham's Chinese Quarter. £	Friday – Wednesday: 12pm-11pm

Speaker Biographies

Marc Adams, People and Organisational Development (POD) Consultant, University of Birmingham

Following a career in ICT with the Mars Group and British Bakeries, Marc went on to gain a MSc in Organisational Psychology at the University of Manchester. He subsequently qualified as a Chartered Psychologist while working for business consultancy Pearn Kandola. He is also an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

Marc has wide experience of assessing individuals to identify their strengths, development needs and potential gained through his work with major public and private sector organisations such as 3i, Royal Mail, the Environment Agency, Barclays and the Fire Service. As an experienced diversity adviser, he has helped teams to recruit the best people fairly and to develop more inclusive working cultures

Professor Kathleen Armour, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), University of Birmingham, Chair of U21 Educational Innovation Cluster

As Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), Kathy is responsible for delivering the University's Strategic Plan for Education. Kathy oversees all aspects of UG and PGT education, sits on the University's Executive Board and is Chair of the University Education Committee. Kathy is also academic lead for the Higher Education Futures institute (HEFi). This new institute has been designed to support the career-long development of our academic staff in learning and teaching, encourage innovation, and share good practice internally and externally.

Kathy's research is in education and career-long professional learning, and she is particularly interested in bridging the gaps between theory/research and practice. In her most recent books, she has developed a new translational mechanism - 'pedagogical cases' - to support practitioner learning. She was a REF2014 panellist, is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, International Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology (USA) and, in 2016, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Orebro University, Sweden for pedagogy research and leadership.

Dr. Amrit Chandan, Co-founder & CEO, ACELERON

Amrit is an entrepreneur interested in projects which are low carbon in nature and which will have a positive impact on our world. Amrit holds a PhD in Fuel Cell Technology and worked in the low carbon vehicle space for many years, advising companies like Morgan Motor Company and others. In 2016, Amrit co-founded and is currently the CEO of Aceleron which is building advanced lithium batteries, changing the way we think about battery technology. Amrit has written many articles which have been published in popular magazines, trade journals and academic peer reviewed journals. Amrit has been recognized for his work through several accolades including being named on the Forbes 30 Under 30 List and being awarded the Hawley Award for Engineering Innovation by HRH Princess Anne on behalf of the Worshipful Company.

Gurmit Kler, Head of Business Engagement, University of Birmingham

Gurmit leads the Business Engagement Team in the delivery of its strategy, setting KPIs and monitoring progress against targets. She is responsible for working with the College leadership and University Executive Board, to identify and develop Business Engagement strategies for the 5 Colleges in line with the overall University's Business Engagement strategy. Gurmit oversees the strategic and operational responsibility for the Business Engagement team, including development of strategy, the translation of that strategy into integrated operational plans across the whole team, and ensuring appropriate focus on central University as well as College priorities.

Dr Hamish McAlpine, Head of KE Data and Evidence at Research England

Dr Hamish McAlpine is Head of KE data and evidence at Research England, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Hamish looks after data and evidence for knowledge exchange, including the HE-BCI survey and forthcoming KEF metrics exercise. He has extensive experience of the HE sector, most recently at the University of Bristol where he managed large, industrially engaged research projects.

Vincent O'Grady, People and Organisational Development (POD) Consultant, University of Birmingham

Vincent has had 25 years' experience in organisational development in both the public and private sector and brings a broad range of knowledge and skills in this area. Vincent has worked across the University supporting the professional and personal development of Research Staff and Post Graduate Researchers. He is a member of the University Coaching Academy and has recently achieved a Level 7 award in Executive Coaching and Mentoring. He has specifically worked to support the University in gaining the HR Excellence in Research award.

His specialism lies in developing managers, teams and individuals across the whole spectrum of the University's activity. In his work he uses the Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI), Korn-Ferry Leadership Styles and Organisational Climate Surveys, Margerison-McCann Team Management Profile and Belbin Team Roles.

Dr James Wilkie, Director of Enterprise & Innovation, The University of Birmingham, & CEO University of Birmingham Enterprise Ltd

James joined the University of Birmingham in 2007 after 20 years in Europe and the US delivering research, innovation and corporate venture investment within large multinational companies. As well as being CEO of University of Birmingham Enterprise Ltd, he currently holds a number of Non-Executive Directorships and Advisory Board positions in a number of high-growth companies and early stage investment funds. In addition to his doctorate, he is a Chartered Engineer with an MBA.

Researcher Engagement Meeting Overview

Dates: Sunday 10 March – Tuesday 12 March 2019

Venue: University of Birmingham

Sunday 10 March	Monday 11 March	Tuesday 12 March		
<p>DDoGS Workshop International Research Communities: Addressing the Challenges</p> <p>9.30-16.30</p> <p>Seminar Room, Westmere House 50 Edgbaston Park Road University of Birmingham</p>	<p>Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting Joint Session</p> <p>8.30-12.10</p> <p>Pevsner Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Research Leaders Meeting</p> <p>8.30-15.00</p> <p>Pevsner Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p> </td> <td> <p>DDoGs Meeting</p> <p>8.30-15.00</p> <p>Seminar Room Westmere House 50 Edgbaston Park Road University of Birmingham</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Research Leaders Meeting</p> <p>8.30-15.00</p> <p>Pevsner Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>	<p>DDoGs Meeting</p> <p>8.30-15.00</p> <p>Seminar Room Westmere House 50 Edgbaston Park Road University of Birmingham</p>
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<p>Welcome Cocktail Reception</p> <p>18.00-19.30</p> <p>The Composers' Suite Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>	<p>Research Leaders Meeting</p> <p>13.10-17.30</p> <p>Pevsner Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>	<p>DDoGs Meeting</p> <p>13.10-17.30</p> <p>Elgar Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>		
	<p>Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting Dinner (Dress Code: smart/casual)</p> <p>19.00-21.30</p> <p>Lloyd Room Hornton Grange Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>	<p>Campus Tours 15.00</p> <p>Researcher Engagement Steering Group Meeting (STEERING GROUP MEMBERS ONLY)</p> <p>15.30-17.00</p> <p>Pevsner Room Edgbaston Park Hotel 53 Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham</p>		

Sunday 10 March: DDoGS Workshop

DDoGS Workshop: International Research Communities: Addressing the Challenges

OPTIONAL FOR RESEARCH LEADERS

Time: 9.30-16.00

Venue: Seminar Room, Westmere House, 50 Edgbaston Park Road, University of Birmingham

Workshop Premise:

Being a postgraduate researcher (PGR) is a challenging process for both home and international students. When this process also involves moving to a different country and adapting to a new social, cultural and educational context, these challenges may be greater. That is said, when international PGRs have enough support to overcome these challenges, their educational and cultural experiences become invaluable resources for their development. During the morning session, four international PGRs will talk about the culturally embedded challenges of being an international PGR and their efforts in overcoming these challenges. These challenges will inform the afternoon session that seeks to explore how we can enhance support for international students.

Time	
9.00	Coffee on arrival
9.30 (15 mins)	Welcome: Professor Gavin Schaffer
9.45 (1 hr 25 mins)	The challenges of being an International Postgraduate Researcher: student led discussion Facilitator: Dr Eren Bilgen, PGR Community Engagement Officer, University Graduate School, University of Birmingham PGR students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karn Vohra, College of Life and Environmental Sciences• Narmin Ismayilova, College of Arts and Law• Henry Chukwumah, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences• Melina Delmas, College of Arts and Law
11.10 (20 mins)	Break
11.30 (1 hr 30 mins)	The challenges of being an International Postgraduate Researcher: student led discussion (continued)
13.00 (1 hr)	Lunch
14.00 (45 mins)	Internationalisation and Capacity Building Professor Shireen Motola, Senior Director: Research and Innovation, University of Johannesburg
14.45 (45 mins)	How do we address the challenges faced by international Postgraduate Researchers? Hayley Maxwell, Director of English for Academic Purposes, Birmingham International Academy, University of Birmingham Helen Eastham, Head of International Student Advisory Services, University of Birmingham
15.30 (30 mins)	Summary and action points
16.00	Networking

Welcome Cocktail Reception

All welcome

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: The Composers' Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road

Dress code: Smart/Casual

Monday 11 March: Joint Meeting

Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting – Joint Session (Research Leaders and DDoGS)

Venue: Pevsner Room, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

Time		Document Ref.
8.30	Coffee on arrival	
8.45 (15 mins)	Welcome: Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice Chancellor, University of Birmingham	
9.00 (15 mins)	Introduction to University of Birmingham: Professor Tim Softley , Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer Professor Gavin Schaffer , Director of Postgraduate Studies	
9.15 (1 hour 30 mins)	Development of Innovation and Enterprise Skills for ECRs and PhDs Dr James Wilkie , Director of Enterprise & Innovation, The University of Birmingham, & CEO University of Birmingham Enterprise Ltd Gurmit Kler , Head of Business Engagement, University of Birmingham Dr. Amrit Chandan , Co-founder & CEO, ACELERON	
10.45 (30 mins)	Break/networking	
11.15 (20 mins)	RE Cluster Business Meeting: Co-Chairs Professor Andy Hor and Associate Professor Caroline Daley	Paper J1
11:40 (15 mins)	U21 Early Career Researchers UoB Cohort 2018: Reports	
11.55 (15 mins)	U21 Provost's Updates: Professor Bairbre Redmond	
12.10 (1 hour 5 mins)	Lunch and group photograph	

Monday 11 March: Research Leaders' Meeting

Research Leaders Meeting

Venue: Pevsner Room, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

Time		Document Ref.
13.15 (10 mins)	Introductions Professor Andy Hor , Chair of Research Leaders	
13.25 (35 mins)	Updates since last meeting Professor Andy Hor and Connie Wan , U21 Researcher Engagement Manager <ol style="list-style-type: none"> RCG updates – Laurie Locascio (on behalf of Denise Clarke) and Xavier Rodde ECR Workshop – feedback and call for hosts, Connie Wan 	Paper R1: RCG ToRs ECR Workshop Feedback Survey
14.00 (1 hour)	Professor Kathy Armour, Pro Vice Chancellor (Education), University of Birmingham , will present and illustrate the outcomes of a discussion held in 2016 at the U21 Educational Innovation conference as summarised in the position paper (see Document Ref.). RLs will have a discussion sharing experiences, knowledge and ideas of how teaching and learning draws benefits from the research-intensive nature of member universities. Research Leaders are asked to consider what Researcher Engagement can add to the position paper developed at the Educational Innovation meeting.	Teaching in Research Intensive Universities – U21 Position Paper
15.00 (1 hour)	EU/International collaborative funding; diversifying funding streams, examples of best practice Xavier Rodde , Head of European and International Research Support, University of Birmingham	
16.00 (15 mins)	Break	
16.15 (1 hour 15 mins)	An Introduction to Research England's new Knowledge Exchange Framework Development of the Knowledge Exchange Framework in England Hamish McAlpine , Head of KE Data and Evidence, Research England	
17.30	End/Free networking time	

Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting Dinner

(Dress Code: smart/casual)

Time: 19.00–21.30

Venue: Lloyd Room, Hornton Grange, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

Tuesday 12 March: Research Leaders' Meeting

Research Leaders' Meeting

Venue: Pevsner Room, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

Time		Document Ref.
8.30	Coffee on arrival	
9.00 (1 hour 45 mins)	<p>Development Programmes for Mid-Career Faculty (defined here as Associate Professor level): Workshop aims to introduce models for MCR development of research capabilities and explore the idea of developing a U21 programme and what it may look like.</p> <p>Professor Tim Softley, (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer) University of Birmingham</p> <p>Marc Adams and Vincent O'Grady, People and Organisational Development Consultants, University of Birmingham</p> <p>University of Melbourne's new Researcher Capability Framework Professor Julie McLeod, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability), University of Melbourne</p>	UoB Research Leaders Presentation 2018 – download here
10.45 (15 mins)	Break	
11.00 (1 hour)	<p>U21 Research Leaders visit to EU Parliament:</p> <p>Report and how to move forward - Professor Orla Feely, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, University College Dublin and Declan Kirrane, Director, ISC Intelligence in Science</p>	Paper R2
12.00 (1 hour)	Lunch	
13.00 (1 hour)	<p>Working with Research Sponsors: Sharing of Experiences</p> <p>'To thine own self be true' - challenges with research sponsorship Professor Nicholas Fisk, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), UNSW</p>	
14.00 (1 hour)	Recap of meeting and action points	
15.00 (approx. 1 hour 30 mins)	Campus Tour (optional)	

Researcher Engagement Steering Group Meeting

Time: 15.30 – 17.00

Venue: Pevsner Room, Edgbaston Park Hotel, 53 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham

J1: Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting 2019 – Reports and plans of activities

In 2018 Researcher Engagement re-focused its programmatic plan to deliver activities that were timely and relevant, prioritising quality over quantity. Last year's programme demonstrated Researcher Engagement's commitment to sharing best practice within the network and also promoting the significance of wider research impact and supporting the needs of graduate research and researchers. Researcher Engagement actively engaged with organisations outside of the immediate U21 network, notably the European Parliament, showing significant influence and impact on the wider Higher Education sector.

1. Changes to U21 Secretariat

The U21 Secretariat welcomes Rachel Edwards, Communications Manager and Harry Bamber, Desktop and Server Support Specialist. They will be with the team until the end of October and September 2019 respectively. Jade Bressington, Director of Operations will be on maternity leave from June 2019. Plans for her maternity cover will be announced shortly.

2. New Network Members

U21 welcomes McMaster University and University of California, Davis to the network.

3. Research Collaboration Group

The RCG met in May 2018 at the University of Glasgow bringing together 12 delegates from 8 member institutions. A report of the meeting is included in [Appendix 1](#).

At the meeting Denise Clark (University of Maryland) announced that she would step down from her role as Chair of the Group in May 2019. Following the meeting, Xavier Rodde (University of Birmingham) was appointed Co-Chair/Chair-Elect and will take over from Denise at the RCG Meeting in May. U21 thanks Denise for her contribution in developing the RCG programme and in particular the University of Maryland-led BRAKE (Borderless Research Administration Knowledge Exchange) workshops which have trained over 1500 individuals to date.

The next RCG Meeting will take place at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile 27-31 May 2019, to include a 2-day international funding workshop led by Xavier Rodde. Xavier will provide an update on their current and upcoming activities at the Research Leaders' Meeting.

4. U21 3 Minute Thesis Competition 2018

The U21 3MT competition 2018 received 19 outstanding entries and the people's choice award received over 6800 public votes. The winners of 2018 are as follows:

Winner

Jonathan Berengut from UNSW Sydney

Bio-Nano Robo-Mofos

[Watch](#) Jonathan's winning video

Prize: \$2500

Runner up

Phoebe Kirkwood from the University of Edinburgh

The Secrets of Scarless Healing

Prize: \$500

People's Choice Award

Roshaida Abdul Wahab from University College Dublin

The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth

Prize: \$300

5. U21 Early Career Researcher Workshop 2018



"This was the best meeting I've ever attended in terms of systemic awesomeness of the delegates, exposure to exciting out-of-my-comfort zone knowledge and encouragement to think outside the box to fight to make a positive impact on our environment, biodiversity, health, quality of life and food security."
– U21 ECR Workshop attendee

Download full workshop programme [here](#).

Last year's ECR workshop 'Sustainable Futures' was hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The interdisciplinary workshop addressed the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), stressing the importance of innovative research and collaboration in paving a route towards a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come. The workshop also focused on developing key research capabilities and skills for a sustainable career in academia.

The workshop brought together 56 delegates from 14 U21 member universities and showcased cutting-edge research conducted by the network's community of ECRs. Through a series of workshop sessions promoting knowledge exchange and skills-sharing, networking and cross-disciplinary partnerships, participants had the opportunity to share and learn about international projects, perspectives and approaches to research.

SJTU invited a number of distinguished international speakers to contribute and they spoke knowledgeably about issues highlighted by the United Nations Sustainable Goals such as climate change, food poverty and environmental ethics. Speakers included Professor Yong Geng (Dean, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, SJTU) and Professor Christoph Stückelberger (Executive Director, Geneva Agape Foundation) and Professor Fujita Tsuyoshi (Director of the Center for Social and Environmental Systems Research, National Institution for Environmental Studies, Japan).

A thorough feedback survey has been conducted to assess the event in order to inform future workshops themes and format. This will be discussed further at the Research Leaders' Meeting. The call for hosts is now open for the 2019 and 2020 workshops.

6. Graduate Collaborative Research Awards

The GCRA aims to enable doctoral candidates to develop and implement international research collaborations within the U21 network. The total amount available for the awards is US\$30,000. In 2018, U21 allocated \$29,917 to 6 projects across 10 member universities. Details of the funded projects are included in [Appendix 2](#).

Reports have been submitted for the 2017-2018 award recipients. The DDoGS will be reviewing their reports as part of their business meeting. The call for applications is now open, GCRA deadlines and guidelines for 2019 can be found [here](#).

7. U21/PwC Innovation Challenge

2018 saw the successful completion of 2 (out of 3) group rounds of the Innovation Challenge competition. The competition offers Masters and PhD students at U21 institutions access to global professional development opportunities. The challenges themselves, set by PwC, had students communicate their specialist knowledge, skills and talents in response to future world of work scenarios. Students submitted short 3-minute videos that were judged by PwC Partners and their client CEOs.

[Humberto Jimenez Martinez](#) from The University of Queensland won the first ever group round of the U21/PwC Innovation Challenge competition which was launched in May 2018. As part of his prize package, he spent a week in Dubai meeting staff and CEOs at PwC Middle East, and their clients. He also received 121 career development coaching at the PwC Academy as part of his prize. Humberto has since been hired by PwC Brisbane as a Risk Assurance Consultant and started his post early this year.

[Mac Montana](#) from the University of Connecticut won the second group round of the competition and is due to travel to the PwC offices in Dubai later this year.

8. U21 Research Leaders visit to the European Parliament

Following on from the release of the [U21 EU Position Paper](#), Research Leaders from 9 U21 universities went to meet MEPs, Director Generals and other stakeholders at European Parliament in November 2018, to give their perspectives and advice on the role of international collaboration in Horizon Europe, and their experiences with Horizon 2020. Over the course of 2 days, the group attended round table and bilateral meetings where they were given the opportunity to feedback on Horizon 2020, where there was a noticeable decrease in participation among non-EU U21 members in comparison to the previous Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, FP7. This visit was significant for raising U21's profile as a global network to key individuals within EU Parliament.

The Research Leaders will be holding a session on potential outcomes from the meeting on Tuesday 12 March.

9. Research Related Workshops/Projects

Researcher Engagement currently has in its annual budget US\$15,000 p.a. to support a research-related workshop or project. In the past it has been used to support workshops on Research Integrity and Research Impact. The funding is allocated via the Researcher Engagement Steering Group and any suggestions for events or projects for 2019-2020 should be directed to Professor Andy Hor or Associate Professor Caroline Daley, for discussion at the Steering Group meeting taking place on Tuesday 12 March at 15.30.

10. Meeting and Location for 2019 onwards

Previous hosts are listed in [Appendix 3](#).

Hosts are being sought for:

- Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting 2020
- Researcher Engagement Cluster Meeting 2021
- Early Career Researcher Workshop 2019

Initial expressions of interest can be made to Professor Andy Hor, Associate Professor Caroline Daley or Dr Connie Wan.

J1: APPENDIX 1 – Report of the Research Collaboration Group

The University of Glasgow hosted the sixth annual meeting of the U21 RCG from 31 May to 1 June 2018. The group was welcomed by Professor James Conroy (Vice Principal, Internationalisation at UoG) and Joe Galloway (Research Support Manager – Overseas Funders, UoG).

General updates and ongoing projects

Denise Clark (UMD), Chair of the RCG, gave an introduction to the University of Maryland [Research Continuum for Strategic Impact](#) which re-models the lifecycle of a research project, incorporating all teams within the Division of Research so that they are actively involved and supporting throughout. Denise also provided an update on UMD's BRAKE workshops; their most recent workshops had taken place at the University of Birmingham (March 2018) and University of Glasgow (May 2018). Denise encouraged the RCG to think about the future of the BRAKE workshops and how they can be adapted/expanded for benefit of U21 members. Denise also gave an update on the success of various RCG initiatives including the survey *Generational Change and Implications for Governance: Comparing Millennial and Non-Millennial Political Attitudes* (Rich Engstrom, UMD), the **Export Control Webinar** hosted by UMD in September 2017 and the **Research Impact Workshop** which took place at UMD in November 2017. Denise also expressed that the **Policy Matrix**, created to sign post to documents and policies across U21 member institutions related to potential limitations of research partnership, will be an ongoing project, and the group agreed that immediate constraints could be highlighted by reviewing the documents of other U21 members.

During the session the group decided to review and update the current RCG Terms of Reference to reflect the Researcher Engagement Programmatic Plan (2018 – 2023) taking into consideration the RCG's accomplishments to date and lessons learnt so far. The group also shared seed funding opportunities focused around those that supported strategic international research collaborations and research projects. The group agreed that seed funding opportunities can be uploaded and disseminated via the use of the group's new Sharepoint site.

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

Xavier Rodde (University of Birmingham) presented on the European framework programmes for Research and Innovation, [H2020](#) and the upcoming Horizon Europe. Although Brexit will have implications on universities in the UK, the government is pushing for the same level of involvement in Horizon Europe, which also aims to encourage greater participation from non-EU countries. Xavier proposed ways in which U21 member institutions could be involved in supporting/enabling research fellowships or staff exchanges or PhD training through the [Marie Curie Research Fellowship](#) programme. Other funding channels were also discussed such as the European Research Council which supports research programmes, and collaborative projects for industrial/enabling technologies and global challenges which encourage cross-sector partnerships.

Funding in Action

[nEUROSTRESSPEP](#), Professor Shireen Davies, University of Glasgow

The second day focused on showcasing funded research projects and partnerships with different types of stakeholders. Professor Davies gave an overview of the [nEUROSTRESSPEP](#) project that was successfully funded under Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge 2 call. The research project was established to prevent insect attacks on food crops which damage at least 20% of the world's yield. Rather than looking at current insecticides (to which insects have built a resistance), the research targeted the insects' own hormones, creating a safer and more sustainable approach to pest control. Professor Davies explained that the project took on a 'multi-actor' approach whereby it worked with a range of complementary stakeholders, on a real-life problem. Outcomes have included an increased profile for the project and research, plus the successful running of stakeholder engagement activities. Recommendations and advice for U21 members include: supporting prime research collaborations, attract Small/Medium Enterprises and industry involvement, influence research agendas and innovation priorities.

Discussion centered around implications of universities from the US and Australia who are unable to accept H2020 funding due to liability issues. The interdisciplinary nature of the nEUROSTRESSPEP project was also

challenged, but Professor Davies explained the involvement of sociologists in SAPPHIRE (Sustainable Plant Protection using Peptides to Halt Pests and Diseases in Integrated Strategies).

Gravitational Waves Project, Professor Kenneth Strain, University of Glasgow

Professor Kenneth Strain presented the Gravitation Waves project at UoG, funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. In 2016 waves were detected by both of the twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors. Researchers detected gravitational waves (ripples in the fabric of space-time) caused by the collision of two black holes in the distant universe. This detection confirmed Einstein's theory that massive objects distort space-time, and also gave the first direct evidence of the existence of black holes, and the first observation of black holes merging.

The UoG's Institute for Gravitational Research led on the conception and development of sensitive mirror suspensions in the LIGO detectors that picked up the first detection 10 years prior; the development of the technology involved was a collaborative effort and involved partnerships with the University of Birmingham, the University of Strathclyde, and the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. There is now a growing network of Gravitational Wave detectors under construction and the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, a group of 1000 + scientists worldwide. Professor Strain concluded that the success of the project was due to the multi-institution collaboration.

J1: APPENDIX 2 - Details of Funded Graduate Collaborative Research Awards 2018–2019

	2016	2017	2018
Total projects funded	7	7	6
Total funds released	\$35,183	\$36,065	\$29,917
Total funds requested	\$203,978	\$81,389	\$92,617
Members in funded projects	15	16	10
Total students in funded projects	35	34	25
Total members in all submissions	22	19	17
Total projects submitted	35	15	15
Total eligible projects	25	14	14

Funded GCRA Projects 2018:

Title: Is Happiness from Beer Consumption Related to Alcohol or Specific Beer Compounds?

Outline: Beer is one of the oldest and most consumed alcoholic beverages worldwide and, currently, it accounts for 77.7% of total volume sales. Therefore, it is important to understand the physiological and emotional effects of beer on consumers from different cultural background to assess the causes of its popularity. This project aims to assess whether the physiological and emotional responses to beer are due to the alcohol content or other beer components, and its effects on consumers from different cultural backgrounds. This will be assessed using non-invasive biometric techniques, machine learning and a novel Bio-sensory tablet computer application.

U21 Members involved: University of Melbourne, Tecnologico de Monterrey, University of British Columbia

Title: Teacher Perceptions of Indigenous Learners in Taiwan

Outline: This project examines mainstream teachers' perceptions of indigenous learners in Taiwan's secondary schools. In 1987 Taiwan's governance structure moved from authoritarian rule to democratization. Since then, 16 indigenous groups have been recognized nationally, and significant gains have been made in promoting their rights. In 2016 the Historical Justice and Transitional Justice Commission (HJTJC) was established to seek reconciliation between settler and indigenous populations, and promote a more just society. Despite this progress, Taiwan's indigenous peoples continue to be over-represented in low socioeconomic statistics, with employment opportunities primarily as manual labor or farmers in impoverished rural areas. Importantly, indigenous peoples are significantly over-represented in under-achievement statistics and drop-out rates within state schools. In spite of this, Taiwan's HJTJC does not have a current education strategy. The outcomes of this project has implications for current Initial Teacher Education and in-service professional development programs, and aims to understand mainstream teachers' perceptions of their indigenous learners. Such an understanding is an important first step in identifying appropriate interventions targeting the improvement of indigenous learners' school achievement, and is hoped to lead in to future studies of a larger scale.

U21 Members involved: The University of Hong Kong, The University of Melbourne, The University of Auckland

Title: Oyster as a Model for Studying Bio-Mineralization in the Acidifying Future Oceans

Outline: Shell fishes, such as oysters, make use of calcium carbonate in the sea water to make their shells. The process of shell formation is controlled biologically by organic components such as protein and polysaccharides. This biologically controlled shell formation process is called as biomineralization. Ocean acidification (OA) poses a threat for the survival of shell fishes in the future, mainly by negatively impacting biomineralization. This project studies the effect of OA on the biomineralization of Hong Kong oysters (Species: *Crassostrea hongkongensis*) to understand the ability of these animals to survive in the future ocean acidification scenarios. The project also aims to understand the mechanism of response of the Hong Kong oysters to OA.

U21 Members involved: The University of Hong Kong, University of British Columbia, University of Auckland

Title: Building Bridges, Minding the Gaps: an Interdisciplinary Approach to Engaging Children and Elderly People in Creating Resilient Healthcare Infrastructure to Disasters

Outline: Natural disasters have become an increasing threat to the wellbeing of populations worldwide. In this context, children and elderly people (aged 65 and more) are two of the most vulnerable groups to the disruption of healthcare systems facing natural disasters. Children, are more vulnerable to health problems triggered by inadequate food and water supply that usually follows a natural disaster. On the other hand, elderly people's health is also highly vulnerable to disasters, as usually they must deal with chronic conditions that require ongoing support from healthcare infrastructure. Currently, there is scarce knowledge on how to integrate the perspectives of priority groups in the analysis of healthcare infrastructure resilience. Therefore, the main objective of this project is to formulate a methodological framework to incorporate the social dimension in the analysis of functionality of healthcare systems, based on the exploration of the children's and elderly people's perspectives.

U21 Members involved: Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, University of Melbourne, University of Edinburgh

Title: Multi-user voice-driven BIM-based navigation system for fire emergency response

Outline: Fire emergencies are one of the most frequently occurring incidents in residential buildings causing serious casualties. Navigational support is of high importance for fire emergency responders. Currently, two-dimensional route maps used for route planning in a fire emergency is insufficient, especially when occupants are trapped and unable to articulate their location. This project aims to develop a multi-user voice-driven building information-based modelling (BIM) navigation system for these instances, concentrating on data collection from sensing technologies (e.g. radio frequency identification etc.) combined with voice-driven navigational query and command, making navigation more intuitive.

U21 Members involved: University of Hong Kong, University of Auckland, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Title: Structural Design and Fabrication of Folded Sandwich Cylinder Structures

Outline: Heavy structures consume a large amount of energy and generate massive CO₂ emissions during manufacture and daily use. As a result, there is now a growing demand for more efficient and sustainable lightweight structures, across the building, automotive and aircraft industries. One of the most effective ways to achieve this is to use origami-like techniques to create folded structures that require relatively little machinery or equipment to manufacture. New research into using constructional materials for folded structures will expand the applications of origami and origami-inspired designs.

U21 Members involved: University of Queensland, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, National University of Singapore

J1: APPENDIX 3 - Hosts of previous meetings and workshops

	Research Leaders	DDoGS	ECR Workshop	Research Collaboration Group
2021	Call for host		Call for host	Call for host
2020	Call for host		McMaster University	Waseda University
2019	Birmingham		Call for host	PUC, Santiago
2018	Queensland		Shanghai Jiao Tong	Glasgow
2017	UCD, Dublin		PUC, Santiago	Johannesburg
2016	Maryland		Edinburgh	UNSW, Sydney
2015	SJTU, Shanghai		Dublin	Nottingham
2014	PUC, Santiago		Nottingham (China)	Maryland
2013	UBC, Vancouver		Tec de Monterrey	Dublin
2012	Lund	-	SJTU, Shanghai	-
2011	Auckland	Virginia	Birmingham	-
2010	Nottingham	Melbourne	UNSW, Sydney	-

Dated February 2019

Purpose

The Research Collaboration Group (RCG) is a semi-formal working group supporting the development of research and innovation activities within the Universitas 21 (U21) network. It operates within the U21's Research Cluster alongside the Research Leaders Group and the Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies. The Cluster is overseen by the Researcher Engagement Steering Group.

The purpose of RCG is:

- To take executive-level decisions and pursue targeted initiatives amongst the RCG members that will help with the brokering of joint collaboration opportunities across the U21 network, with the objective of:
 - Increasing the ability to carry out high quality joint research and innovation activities.
 - Brokering exchanges that will lead to valuable research and innovation collaborations.
 - Creating synergies with research opportunities outside the network particularly organizations outside academia e.g. businesses or government agencies.
- To share information and intelligence across the network relating to domestic research opportunities to enhance the inception and delivery of collaborative research programmes within U21.
- To facilitate effective co-ordination and communication with other Groups within the Research Cluster and the wider U21 network.

Composition

The group is composed of representatives who would normally be in influential positions within Research Administration including Innovation Units, with one main contact person per institution and, if needed, a person who can deputise for the main contact.

A list of members can be found on the Universitas 21 [website](#).

The U21's Researcher Engagement Manager shall be an ex officio member of RCG.

The Group may invite any person(s) to attend its meetings, subject to the approval of the Chair.

Terms of reference

In matters relating to initiating and facilitating joint research collaboration:

- To take part in the formulation of, and provide decision making in support of, targeted activities that will help to increasing research collaboration amongst U21 member organisations.
- To lead or take part in targeted activities that will deliver an increased level of joint (bilateral or multilateral) research and innovation related programmes.
- To maximise opportunities through effective and timely communication of intelligence, including funding opportunities, for collaboration purposes within U21.
- To identify, share and promote relevant research collaborations in support of research programmes.
- To share institutional research areas, partnerships, and academic leaders that would add to the joint research programme within U21.
- To monitor and review the success of our approach and supported activities, recommending changes as appropriate.
- To consider any relevant matters referred to RCG by the Researcher Engagement Steering Group and the other groups within the U21 Research Cluster and refer matters to these groups for consideration as appropriate.

Chairing of RCG

The Chairperson of the RCG will perform the following duties:

- Ensure that the Committee satisfies its remits as described above.

- Provide leadership, foster effectiveness and develop teamwork within the RCG.
- Guide RCG in establishing a consensus on important issues and decisions while allowing full and open discussion.
- Representing RCG on the Researcher Engagement Steering Group.

The Chairperson is elected for a period of two years, which can be renewed for a further two years.

Members shall express an interest for Chairmanship through a call for expression of interest. If more than one **active** member of RCG puts themselves forward, nominations shall be sought through one round of voting, on the basis of (i) the highest number of votes received and (ii) one vote per U21 RCG member representative.

The Chairing of RCG is open to a co-chairing arrangement.

The chair of RCG sits on the Researcher Engagement Steering Group.

Duties of RCG members

Members of the group are invited to:

- Attend the meetings of the Group, or where not possible, to send an appropriate deputy.
- Participate actively in the discussion and decision making process that will decide initiatives.
- Act upon decisions and actions agreed by the Group.
- Remain informed of, and report upon, activities relating to Universitas 21 that are taking place within each Group member's sphere of influence.
- Build, consolidate and leverage academic and professional networks in order to generate intelligence and insights relating to these funds and to share such information with the Group.

Location, Format and Frequency of Meetings

The Group meets three times a year at regular intervals, with one of these meetings being face to face.

The Group may meet more often (face to face or virtually), whenever necessary.

Face to face meetings will be hosted by one of the *active* members of the RCG. Agreement on the location will be reached through a call for expressions of interest if more than one offer for hosting is received.

No expenses are reimbursed for attending the meetings of the Research Collaboration Group, unless otherwise agreed by U21.

Reporting

RCG will not be required to issue formal reports to other committees. The group, via its Chair, the U21's Researcher Engagement Manager or other nominated group members, will provide updates to the following:

- Researcher Engagement Steering Group.
- Research Leaders Group.
- Directors of Graduate Schools Group

From time to time the Group may receive or generate data that is of relevance to other committees or administrative/ academic units. This information will be circulated to appropriate committee secretaries or cascaded via Group members as appropriate.

Conflict of Interest and Decisions making

Members of RCG's contribution are encouraged to be pro-active and contribute to the activities of the Group that lead to joint collaborations amongst U21 Universities. In doing so, ideas that may lead to a commercial opportunity or personal consultancy should be avoided.

RCG being a semi-formal working group, should ensure discussions and agreements on initiatives are collaborative and members shall make every effort to reach decisions on the basis of consensus.

Where consensus is not possible, decisions shall require a minimum of a two-thirds majority of the votes eligible to be cast, on the basis of one vote per active organisation in RCG. In the event of a vote taking place where a two-thirds majority is not achieved, the matter under discussion will be referred to the Researcher Engagement Steering Group for consideration.

Background

Under the leadership of UCD, ISC organised a series of meetings in Brussels on behalf of Universitas 21, a global universities network on 26-27 November 2018.

Universitas 21 (U21) is a global network of 27 research intensive universities, including USA, China, Japan, India, EU, Singapore, South Korea and Chile amongst other countries. U21 leadership came to Brussels on 26 and 27 November 2018 to explore how it can contribute to the global aims of Horizon Europe, including alignment on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Many of the U21 Universities have ongoing collaboration with EU-based actors.

Major global challenges, such as sustainability, security and health, can only be addressed through international co-operation. Collaboration on research and innovation is a key pillar through which this co-operation can be delivered. In addition to the obvious economic benefits to be gained from trading relationships based on shared knowledge outcomes, such an approach also delivers significant cultural and societal benefits.

Current researcher engagement activities supported by U21 include the Graduate Collaborative Research Awards, the Joint PhD Programme, the Three Minute Thesis competition and the Early Career Researcher Workshops. The Researcher Engagement Cluster's challenges and goals support and uphold the network's Strategic Vision of a truly global alliance.

U21 Delegation

- Orla Feely, University College Dublin
- Diego Cosmelli, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
- Joanna Regulska, University of California, Davis
- Karen Mossman, McMaster University
- Richard Masterman, University of Nottingham
- Jonathan Seckl, University of Edinburgh
- Xavier Rodde, University of Birmingham
- Felicity Jones, University of Melbourne
- Annika Glauner, University of Zurich

Programme – Universitas 21 Brussels Visit 26 – 27 November 2018

Monday 26 Nov 2018	
19.00-21.30	<p>Universitas 21 Brussels Dinner</p> <p>The dinner will bring together the U21 representatives', and representatives from the EU Institutions. Invited guests include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jean Claude Burgelman, DG R&I – Open Science 2. Peter Droell, DG R&I; Industrial Technologies 3. Victor Flavian, Council Secretariat, Competitiveness 4. Patricia Reilly, DG Education and Culture 5. Maryline Maillard, Swiss EU Rep. 6. Paola Gosparini, DG Development 7. Declan Kirrane, ISC 8. Emer Costello, ISC

Tuesday 27th November 2018	
8.00	<p>European Parliament Breakfast Roundtable Hosted by Dr. Paul Ruebig MEP – Austria</p>
11.00	<p>Sieglinde GRUBER, DG Research & Innovation</p>
12.30	<p>European Brain Council Stephanie Kramer, Comms and Advocacy Co-ordinator</p>
14.30	<p>Cabinet Commissioner Moedas</p>
16.00	<p>Dr Adam Tyson, Director for International Cooperation with North America, Latin America and the Caribbean DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</p>
17.00	<p>Dr Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, Joint Research Centre, the European Commission's science and knowledge service.</p>

Meeting Notes & Action Points

Universitas 21 Brussels Dinner

U21 Dinner Guests in attendance:

- Jean Claude Burgelman, DG R&I – Open Science
- Peter Droell, DG R&I; Industrial Technologies
- Victor Flavian, Council Secretariat, Competitiveness
- Patricia Reilly, Deputy Head of Cabinet, European Commission, DG Education & Culture
- Maryline Maillard, Swiss EU Rep.
- Paola Gosparini, DG Development

Main Discussion Points

- Horizon Europe takes into consideration the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- The budget for the European Research Council has been increased.
- Opening up funding to third countries; has there been push back from the EU? Is it a political move? Horizon Europe can be open but it is not 'free'.
- Open Science Policy Platform; not a global playing field.
- Horizon Europe is not the only funding opportunity available for research; also the new space programme, defence programme etc.
- Erasmus: proposal to double the budget and scale up the existing scheme, increasing the budget for schools. Pilot will be taking place over the next 2 years; bottom-up approach.
- Opportunities for U21 activities through Erasmus? Erasmus is already international – how can U21 add value (using its international scope) in the future?
- Biotech; U21 to consult? Established network of trust and a move away from 'ad hoc' conversation with the EU to something broader yet focused. The EU does not have a budget (U21 was not asking for one) but perhaps U21 can assist in the consultation?
- WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic) countries; still the best model for Higher Education?

Dr Peter Dröll, from European Commission's Research and Innovation Department outlined draft headings for a number of Horizon 2020 calls to be published in 2019.

The titles of the calls are as follows:

- CE-BIOTEC-04-2018: New biotechnologies for environmental remediation (RIA)
- CE-BIOTEC-05-2019: Microorganism communities for plastics bio-degradation (RIA)
- NMBP-13-2018: Risk Governance of nanotechnology (RIA)
- NMBP-14-2018: Nanoinformatics: from materials models to predictive toxicology and ecotoxicology (RIA)
- NMBP-15-2019: Safe by design, from science to regulation: metrics and main sectors (RIA)

The publication date expected for this call will be mid-2019. Dr Dröll said he would welcome submissions from U21 to one or a number of these calls. He mentioned that he is particularly interested to receive proposals in the area of Biotech and Nanosafety.

Action Points

Proposed Action 1: set up a conference call with Dr Droll in order to present some initial scoping ideas for his planned call for proposals.

Timeframe: February 2019

Proposed Action 2: assist the Commission (Dr Burtleman) in developing models for international data exchange in compliances with the GDPR and with the European Science Cloud. Present case studies.

Breakfast meeting, European Parliament hosted by Dr Paul Rúbig MEP.

Dr Rubig gave an overview of his role on the Parliament's ITRE Committee, which is concerned with research and science. He strongly believes that scientists have an important role in educating and informing politicians.

Discussion took place around how U21 and the EU can interact. Dr Rubig has particular interest in working with Korea (he is Vice-Chair Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula) and China (especially in the areas of AI). There is scope to work with the European Innovation Council on promoting/disseminating technology issues to a broader community thereby playing a role in educating and preparing the younger generation for a future where technology and innovation plays an ever more important role, with a focus on individualised teaching and learning.

Dr Rúbig suggested a dedicated hearing in the European Parliament which would provide U21 with a platform on which to present how it can contribute to the objectives for Horizon Europe in the area of international cooperation. Such a hearing would examine, the policy dimension, the specific scientific priorities, the funding and instrument aspects of the framework programme and how Horizon Europe can enable international cooperation.

The hearing would be based around key themes, possibly the environment and health. By September 2019 and the orientation of the framework programme will be more advanced and significant information will be available on how operational aspects. This would give U21 the opportunity to contribute to the priorities, as well as advance specific ideas around collaborations that will fit with the overall perspective of Horizon Europe. Consortium and partners can be showcased.

The issue of Switzerland's partial association status was raised as a level of mistrust has evolved among Swiss researchers since the previously privileged status has been diminished and the number of researchers applying for funding is decreasing.

Post Meeting U21 Discussion:

Research Leaders agreed that there needed to be clarity in their 'ask' or 'offer' to the EU as this needs to be communicated in the upcoming meetings. It was generally agreed that the focus of the discussions should be on academic collaborations (and not industry) and perhaps the UN's SDGs should be included. It was also emphasised that U21's offer should be in line with EU concerns, such as adding value for their citizens. U21 universities to provide research solutions to EU issues.

Viki Lamaye, US Mission

The American Mission was established to tackle difficulties between US universities that want to work with the EU. Transatlantic links in science are pivotal. MIT (which is working alongside the Mission) is involved in trying to forge a working partnership with the EU. Currently many other US universities cannot get funding from the EU as the terms of the grant agreement are problematic (US universities would have to take sole responsibility for any part of the project falling through); Australian universities are experiencing similar problems.

The Mission is interested in hearing about U21's experience and any guidance/advice it can offer.

Meeting with Sielinde Gruber, Head of Marine Resources Unit, DG Research and Innovation

Ms Gruber heads a unit concerned with the sea and the oceans – mainly the Atlantic. Working with networks is important, if the actions and policies are to be externalised. The Marine Resources unit currently works with global research institutions but not universities. Not many universities have ocean-related specification/contacts. The EU is keen to promote plastic-free oceans, especially investment in product design.

Ms Gruber indicated that there would be plenty of scope for increasing co-operation regarding Marine/Ocean research. Opportunities for engagement with U21 could potentially include food production and scarcity. Other activities could include the Research Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), and capacity building – particularly in Africa.

Action Points

Proposed Action: Provide indications of ongoing maritime research contained in the commission's proposal for Horizon Europe. This could then form the basis of a seminar in late 2019 setting out to three big ideas that can help the Commission address its challenges with specific reference to the oceans and the SDGs

Timeframe: Late 2019

Stephanie Kramer, European Brain Council

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a non-profit organisation gathering patient associations, major brain-related societies as well as industries. Established in March 2002, its mission is to promote brain research in order to improve the quality of life of those living with brain disorders in Europe. It aims to encourage the EU to put the Brain health higher on its agenda.

However, the EBC is an alliance of European organisations only which would make it difficult for U21 members to participate.

Cabinet Commissioner Moedas

Meeting with Mr Antonio Vicente, Head of Cabinet and Mr Keith Sequeira, Senior Adviser with responsibility for Horizon 2020 (Horizon Europe) and Research Infrastructures.

Horizon Europe is currently under negotiation with member states and European Parliament. It is hoped that an agreement will be reached by May 2019.

There will be scope for innovation activities in Horizon Europe which aim to support next generation technology and start ups which will complement the European Research Council.

In addressing the issue of reduced third country participation within U21 member universities, it was emphasised that any collaborative project can have a partner from any country. International openness remains; Japan and China included.

U21 member representatives were able to talk about their experiences with H2020. The decline in third country participation encourages those U21 members to seek other partnerships, for example (in the case of Australia) with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which has a directed relationship. Third countries find it hard to demonstrate their essentiality and it was suggested that the language used in the guidelines could be more inclusive. America has issues pertaining to application procedures being unclear and lack of clarity around intellectual property and licensing of research. Australia also has problems finding National Contact Points for advice and guidance; U21 is has been offering training on NIH and now H2020 funding therefore there is less need for network members to rely on national contact points.

It was acknowledged that Horizon 2020's overall success rate reduced due to the financial downturn. The current success rate is 13-14% which the cabinet recognises that this could be improved.

The Commission members were receptive to the feedback and comments and acknowledged that there are still aspects of the funding programme that could be improved. There is potential for the commission to use U21 as a sounding board as a voice from a global network would be valued. There is a danger that the EU will become insular so it is important to put science back in the core of its main policies to encourage international collaboration.

Both officials expressed considerable interest in developing global co-operation projects through a network such as U21. Now that channels of communication have been opened, the contacts should be maintained and developed.

Action Points

Proposed Action: present a U21 White Paper setting out all potential areas of synergies. Include a number of key specific recommendations as well as how these recommendations can be implemented. Include in the White Paper potential synergies for funding where they exist. Also propose areas where U21 can provide science advise

Timeframe: September/October 2019

Adam Tyson, Head of Department: North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, DG For Research And Innovation, European Commission

Although the level of participation fell at the beginning of H2020, the Commission designed flagship calls to target specific countries and issues. This worked, and all things being equal, it is anticipated that international collaboration will increase over the remainder of H2020. Flagship calls were based on the EU's knowledge of research strengths elsewhere in the world. However, this non-strategic approach meant that the themes were not always relevant to the countries. As a result, the Missions programme was set up to help develop structure and direction around international cooperation; the Missions are interdisciplinary.

Both the EU and U21 are aligned in wanting to develop international research collaborations but how can this influence other organisations and institutions especially as many EU Member States are not research intensive countries and need to see value in their funding go towards third country partners; reciprocity is important.

Vladimir Sucha, Director-General of the Joint Research Centre

The Joint Research Centre provides independent scientific evidence for EU policies:

- As the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) supports EU policies with independent scientific evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.
- The JRC creates, manages and makes sense of knowledge and develops innovative tools and makes them available to policy makers
- It anticipates emerging issues that need to be addressed at EU level and understand policy environments
- JRC collaborates with over a thousand organisations worldwide whose scientists have access to many JRC facilities through various [collaboration agreements](#).
- Their work has a direct impact on the lives of citizens by contributing with its research outcomes to a healthy and safe environment, secure energy supplies, sustainable mobility and consumer health and safety.
- JRC draws on over 50 years of scientific experience and continually build their expertise in knowledge production and knowledge management.
- JRC hosts specialist laboratories and unique research facilities and is home to thousands of scientists.

The JRC is compiling a handbook on science and policy interaction for 2019. Currently, society is being led by science which is causing a change in access to knowledge. There has been a gap between science and policy and the JRC is the voice for research, using research. The JRC aims to mix the different knowledge 'zones' in order to make use of shared expertise and knowledge. Science shouldn't make decisions but provide scenarios. The JRC also has a role in consolidating the gap between perception and reality. The JRC decides on how to research a problem; this is not determined by the policy makers.

Feedback from Participants

Diego Cosmelli, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

I think it was a very interesting meeting, but I wouldn't get too excited about what we can do in the short term. I think this is a long distance race. We should persist as a global network (a concept that we must continue to exploit), and develop and refine the necessary lobbying competences. We should be aware of the importance (that several of our interlocutors pointed out) of speaking with one voice as a group. Also, if we want to influence policy we must be able to show, specifically, which parts of the current (or upcoming) policy are imposing concrete limitations on international collaboration, and why. This was very evident from the meeting with Sieglind Gruber. On a similar vein, it would be interesting to be able to come up with some opportunity-cost analysis of not doing collaborative research with south-south high quality partners. Not sure how to do that, but it would be important to consider both the fact that we have privileged access to regions and research centres placed where such global problems are becoming critical, and also the stage of science development in these south-south regions, in the sense that it still has a large margin for improvement (this is something Jonathan Seckl mentioned too). Some directions seem to come up consistently in the meetings:

- Compliance of standards (of different types: data protection, FAIR, EDI, impact assessment, accountability, others) is necessary to establish trust. Only then can we talk of aiming for a strategic partnership with the EU in a deep (and more interesting) sense. This can take time and resources so the sooner we get going, the better.
- Compliance of standards is, however, not enough. We need to answer the question "What can we bring to the Horizon Europe FP and its goals?" Here the recommendations that came up with the BRAIN group seemed relevant: identify a mayor problem that has mayor eco-societal impact, with a plausible path to solution and visibility. Build consensus and document it, and lobby the initiative to commissioners. As a global network, we should be able to identify a problem that cannot be solved if not through a true extended network of research centres. This could be the focus of a discussion document within U21.

It would be great if we could produce a U21 white paper on what would EU-compliant advanced human capital formation programs look like. This would give us both an aim and a benchmark of where we are as a network to provide a privileged structure for research training and mobility.

Annika Glauner, University of Zurich

The visit was intended as a "fact finding" mission. This goal has been absolutely achieved. U21 has made itself visible to the EC and EP as well as other stakeholders in Brussels.

The intention of any follow up U21 delegation should be to inform the EC / EP on the difficulties of international (3rd country) Universities on participation in FPs and outline possible strategies for improvement (long term goal). These include:

- Lack of information
- Lack of national(matching) resources
- National laws and regulations
- Universities' laws and regulations
- Partners
- Time from proposal to grant
- Benefits etc.

Jean Claude Burgelman, Peter Droell, Patricia Reilly and Maryline Maillard spoke very openly about the status quo of their respective portfolio in relation to *Horizon Europe*, they spoke about the challenges, possible flaws and inflexibility of the EU, while at the same time appreciating the achievements made so far. They provided enough 'food for thought' for U21 regarding

international participation in respect to the Open Science Cloud, The European University Network, MSCA and Erasmus++.

MEP Paul Ruebig very well outlined the processes regarding the decision of the Parliament on the *Horizon Europe* proposal drafted by the EC and provided the basis for U21's consideration to initiate an ITRE hearing in autumn 2019.

António Vicente, Keith Sequeira from Carlos Moedas' Team appreciated U21's interest in actively providing feedback on international collaboration directly to them, as they need the direct reactions from potential H2020 and HE participants. They are interested in knowing why instruments, agreements, arrangements et.al work or not work, how they are perceived in the respective countries and what can be improved if necessary. They encouraged U21 to further engage and provide the above-mentioned with feedback.

Karen Mossman, McMaster University

As a new member of the U21, I found this meeting to be extremely informative, mostly to learn about the U21, its members and the potential it has to partner with other organizations and influence research partnerships, particularly with Horizon Europe. As a member of the U15 in Canada (top 15 research intensive universities in Canada, a group that is very well connected and has much influence with government), McMaster is positioned to open up doors between the U15 and U21. I was also highly encouraged to hear that the EU is actively negotiating with Canada to be an associate member within the Horizon Europe framework. While it isn't yet clear to me precisely what this will ultimately mean, I have tasked Soren with trying to gather information from the EU perspective, while our own GR person in Ottawa is doing the same from the Canadian side. I also appreciated the chance to talk with colleagues within the U21, and learn about potential synergies with individual universities, which I will follow up on. So overall, this was a very informative first meeting for me and for McMaster on the research front.

Joanna Regulska, University of California, Davis

Overall, I was glad to attend as it did help me to gain new knowledge and perspective of current debates re priorities and funding, and the future of the EU directions (this could be a yearly regular visit, but more strategic meetings should be planned).

Afternoon meetings with Cabinet Commissioner was probably the most useful and informative, earlier meetings might have had political significance but we were just fed a party line, DG Research and Innovation were also useful.

I think in the future a better strategy on what the group want to achieve would have been helpful, maybe more behind the scene work needs to be done prior to the meeting.

Some meetings (e.g. with the Brain Council) were not relevant as those presenting had no idea who we are and how we could collaborate, partially because they have a very specific mandate and our group was not representing that particular area.

Maybe U21 needs a clearer strategy about its relationship with the EU; what is it that we want to achieve? Funding? Influence? Access? Made an impact? Address one of the EU's priorities? engagement of U21 researchers in the EU sponsored research projects? Stronger partnerships with EU research partners overall. I think these have to be articulated more clearly as this would allow us to have a better strategy for the future meeting; hence this meeting was very useful to figure out what we need.

Clearly the entry is through member states' institutions; we had very few at the meeting and in fact we have few EU members in U21; I have a feeling that those with whom we were meeting didn't know what to do with us as so many of our institutions are located in non-member states – let's see what will happen with Brexit, but if Brexit will end-up as a deal, then I think this is something

that should be discussed by U21 leadership... at one meeting we were told "thinking globally is not very popular in Europe"

Thematic priorities will be very important – so here is an area where U21 could make contribution.. create a working group(s) by selecting 1-2 areas that are appealing to most members; prepare a summary/strategy what we can offer (emphasizing EU member state institutions' input); be prepared to compete for some funding

EU did signed agreements with non-political partners like Gates, so can we pursue something similar in an area where we have strengths and this will be a foot in the door

Overall I did not get a sense that at any meetings (maybe except with Cabinet Commissioner) they were eager to collaborate or talk about the ways it could be done, it was more this is what we do and you figure this out, but we care about EU primarily and also working with some developing countries mainly in Africa.

Jonathan Seckl, University of Edinburgh

Main message: reinforced concern that some in the EU are taking on the isolationist 'EU First' virus.

Other messages included:

- A moderate willingness to engage with U21
- The lack of a U21 strategy to clarify what we seek from engaging with the EU/Horizon Europe as a whole (as opposed to what individual universities may or may not wish)
- The opportunity, if we can develop an agreed ambition, to engage at useful levels of the EU
- A realisation that we need to do work in order to capitalise on this opportunity
- Balanced by clarity that for the 'third countries' this opportunity is not massive unless there is specific academic (research) alignment with a particular programme
- A concern that EU funding will become ever more bureaucratic, including for third parties who only gain collaboration and get no money.

The recall that if U21 wishes to engage effectively we will need to establish some form of mission in Brussels, at the very least one shared with others. Given that we do not formally drive much intra-U21 collaboration in research as yet, I am not clear how this might be attained or exploited.