

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) held on 29 March 2022

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the recent meeting of UCRI:

Main topics of interest:

At this meeting we:

- Selected a candidate to put forward for the current Leverhulme Research Fellowships call.
- Discussed the process for the annual IDRC monitoring and agreed on a set of questions which would guide an annual monitoring discussion with the IDRC directors. In addition, we will be providing an opportunity for IDRC Directors to adjust their forecast spend for this academic year and their budgets for the next two years. Annual reviews of the IDRCs will take place at the early June UCRI meeting.
- Received an update on elements of the review of the 2020 Research Plan into which wider lessons around REF will feed in after publication of the results.

In other news we:

- Approved funding for an Agri-Food Relationships Manager role from the NIRD Trust.
- Agreed to NIRD Trust strategic funding for a cross sectional study into the benefits of Menus of Change for students. This study will embed the University of Reading into the Menus of Change Universities Research Consortium and strengthen international collaborations.
- Highlighted the recent BBSRC announcement about the launch of the Open Innovation Research Club which comprises a £9.7m investment in 5 innovation hubs for food and health. The call will open on 04 April 22 for a 6 week period.