

Open for business

A nation of global researchers and innovators

Summary

The UK is facing unprecedented change.

The UK has decided to leave the EU. The decisions made now – during the post-referendum negotiations and beyond – will determine the future trajectory of the UK and the people that live here. This change brings risks, but also presents an opportunity to shape our future, to be ambitious and to build on our strengths to make Britain a country that works for every one of us.

We must send a bold, positive message that the UK is one of the best places in the world to research and innovate, and capture the benefits stemming from this to improve the lives of people in the UK.

“Unless we get smarter,
we’ll get poorer.”

Lord Rees of Ludlow Kt OM HonFREng Hon FMedSci FRS,
Astronomer Royal

Create the workforce of the future, drawing on the world's brightest and best and giving every UK citizen the opportunity to be part of this.

Champion Britain as a hub of research and innovation attracting a diverse mix of entrepreneurs and researchers from at home and abroad.

Recruit teachers with specialist subject knowledge at all stages of education who can enthuse, inspire and ensure that everyone can go as far as their talents will take them.

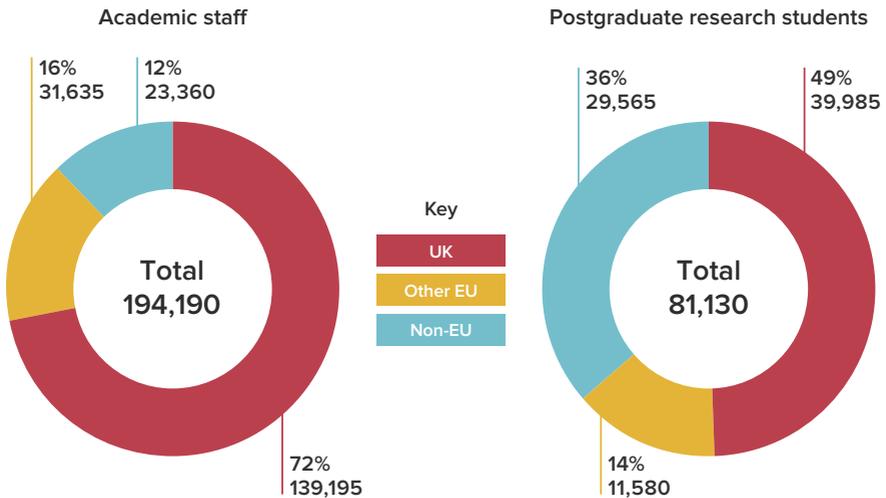
Encourage and facilitate mobility between sectors and disciplines to improve the UK's ability to build on global advances.

A third of UK start-ups were founded by non-UK nationals and 51% of UK start-up employees come from outside the UK¹.

71%

of SMEs agreed that future executives would need foreign language skills and international experience².

UK-based researchers come from around the world, and work with people across the globe.



Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency for 2014 – 2015 (see <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/stats>, accessed 22 March 2016). Note that figures are rounded.

1. European Start Up Monitor (2015) The European Startup Monitor represents more than 2300 start-ups with more than 31,000 employees in all 28 European Member States. Data from 13 countries surveyed.
2. British Academy (2011). *Small and Medium Enterprises Language Survey*.

Cement the UK's reputation as a destination to research, innovate and adopt new technologies.

Place research and innovation at the heart of the UK's Industrial Strategy and plans for long term socio-economic growth throughout the UK.

Signal the UK's ambition to compete internationally by setting a target of 3% of GDP for combined public and private R&D spending.

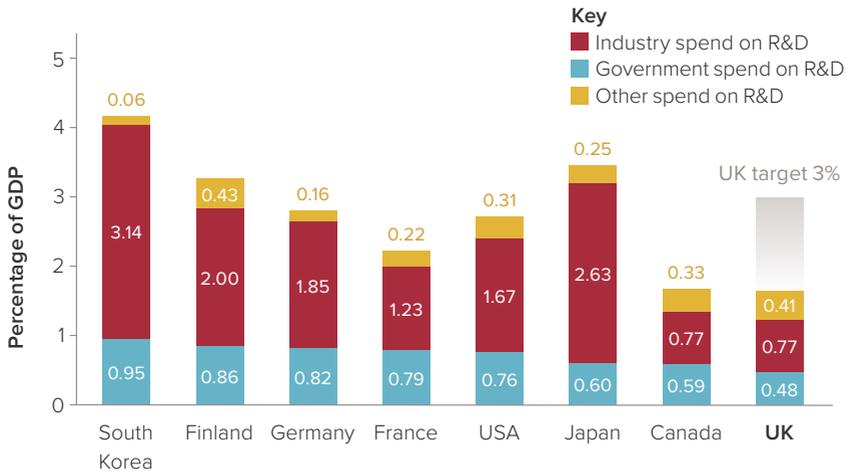
Build a streamlined and flexible regulatory environment that supports research and innovation and earns public confidence.

For every £1 spent by the government on R&D, private sector R&D output rises by **20p per year in perpetuity**, by raising the level of the UK knowledge base³.

65%

of R&D in the UK is performed by businesses⁴.

How does UK investment in R&D compare globally?



Reference: OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators 2013. Data comparator countries shown.

3. Jonathan Haskel, Alan Hughes, Elif Bascavusoglu-Moreau (2014) *The Economic Significance of the UK Science Base A REPORT FOR THE CAMPAIGN FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING*.
 4. Office for National Statistics (2016) UK Gross domestic expenditure on research and development: 2014 –. In 2014 the business sector performed £19.9 billion (65%) of the UK's £30.6 billion gross expenditure on R&D and funded £14.7 billion (48%) of this total.

Capture the creativity and innovation underway in the UK to improve people's lives.

Strengthen the interaction between business and universities to better transform discovery into real world impact.

Use the UK's experts to provide independent advice that draws on the best available evidence to inform national and international policymaking.

Use the breadth of research excellence in the UK to pioneer new approaches and answer new questions.



.....

79% of the public agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research which advances knowledge should be funded by government⁶.

.....

.....

The UK ranks 4th out of university-industry research collaborations in the Global Innovation Index 2016⁷.

.....

A 2014 poll commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research reported that

95% of people supported the NHS carrying out clinical research and

89% would be willing to participate in a clinical trial if diagnosed with a condition⁸.

5. BIA, UK Life sciences manifesto 2015 – 2020.

6. Ipsos MORI (2014) *Public Attitudes to Science*.

7. The Global Innovation Index 2016.

8. National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (2014) *What do people think about clinical research?* <https://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/News/Censuswide%20infographic.pdf>

About the Academies

The Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society are working together to highlight the value of research and innovation to the UK, and to support researchers, industry and policy makers to make the UK the location of choice for world class research, development and innovation. We are working with our research communities to maximise the value of research funding and to support the translation of knowledge into benefits for individuals and society at large.

For further information

The Royal Society

6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG

T +44 20 7451 2500

W royalsociety.org

Registered Charity No. 207043

British Academy

10 –11 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AH

T +44 207 969 5200

W britac.ac.uk

Registered Charity No. 233176

Royal Academy of Engineering

Prince Philip House
3 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5DG

T +44 20 7766 0600

W raeng.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 293074

Academy of Medical Sciences

41 Portland Place
London W1B 1QH

T +44 20 3141 3200

W acmedsci.ac.uk

Registered Charity No. 1070618