

A list of public and non-profit research organisations in the UK

This document contains lists of the different types of UK public and non-profit research organisations. It accompanies the Royal Society's explainer on The role of public and non-profit research organisations in the UK research and innovation landscape. Definitions for the different types of public and non-profit research organisations and terms are included in the explainer.

The data included in this document has been collected from publicly available sources.

This document was last updated in December 2020.

Abbreviations and additional information

The following abbreviations are used in the lists.

Government Departments

BEIS Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

DDCMS Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DfE Department for Education

DHSC Department for Health and Social Care

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

MOD Ministry of Defence

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

AHRC Arts and Humanities Research Council

BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

ESRC Economic and Social Research Council

MRC Medical Research Council

NERC Natural Environment Research Council

STFC Science and Technology Facilities Council

IUK Innovate UK

RE Research England

Company types

Definitions of the different company types are included in the explainer.

CLG Company limited by guarantee

GoCo Government owned, Contractor operated

GoGo Government owned, Government operated

NDPB Non-departmental public body

Region(s)

The NUTS 1 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) areas are used to define the region(s) the organisations are located in.

Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs)

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Intellectual Property Office	BEIS	Executive agency	Newport, London	Wales, London
Government Chemist	BEIS	Private Limited Company	Teddington	London
National Engineering Laboratory (TUV SUD)	BEIS	Private Limited Company	Glasgow	Scotland
Ordnance Survey	BEIS	Public corporation	Southampton	South East
Met Office	BEIS	Executive agency	Exeter	South West
National Measurement Laboratory	BEIS	Private Limited Company	Teddington	London
National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL)	BEIS	GoGo	Workington, Preston, Sellafield, Warrington, Stonehouse, Culham	North West
National Physical Laboratory (NPL)	BEIS	GoCo	Teddington, Huddersfield, Glasgow, Surrey, Cambridge	London, Yorkshire and the Humber, Scotland, South East, East of England
UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)	BEIS	Executive NDPB	Abingdon	South East
UK Space Agency	BEIS	Executive agency	Swindon, London, Harwell	South West, London, South East
Natural History Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Royal Armouries	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London, Leeds, Hampshire	London, Yorkshire and the Humber, South East England
Sir John Soane's Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	Holborn	London
Sport England	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Wallace Collection	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Arts Council England	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
English Heritage	DDCMS	Charitable Trust	Swindon	South West
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Defra	Executive agency	Wheybridge	London

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	Defra	Executive agency	Lowestoft, Weymouth	South West
Environment Agency	Defra	Executive NDPB	Offices across England	
FERA Science Limited	Defra	Joint Venture (Defra with Capita)	York	Yorkshire and the Humber
Forest Research	Defra	Executive agency	Located across the UK	
Forestry Commission	Defra	Non-ministerial department	Edinburgh	Scotland
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Defra	Executive NDPB	Peterborough, Aberdeen	East of England, Scotland
Marine Management Organisation	Defra	Executive NDPB	Newcastle upon Tyne, London	North East, London
Natural England	Defra	Executive NDPB	Headquarters in York, additional offices all over England	Yorkshire and the Humber
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	Defra	Executive NDPB	London, Wakehurst	London, South East
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	Defra	Executive agency	Addlestone	South East
Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)	NDPB	Headquarters in Newforge, 7 additional sites across Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)	Executive agency	Belfast	Northern Ireland
HSC Innovations	Department of Health (Northern Ireland)	Executive agency	Belfast	Northern Ireland
Clinical Practice Research Datalink (subsidiary of MHPRA)	DHSC	Executive agency	London	London
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (subsidiary of MHPRA)	DHSC	Executive agency	London, York, South Mimms	London, Yorkshire and the Humber, East of England

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (subsidiary of MHPRA)	DHSC	Subsidiary of an executive agency	South Mimms	East of England
National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE)	DHSC	Executive agency	London	London
Public Health England (PHE)	DHSC	Executive agency	Each of the nine regions in England have a local centre which provide services, expertise, response and advice to the local NHS, local authorities and other partners.	
NHS Innovations East (Health Enterprise East)	DHSC	CLG	Milton	East of England
NHS Innovations South East	DHSC	CLG	Abingdon	South East
NHS Innovations West Midlands (MidTECH)	DHSC	CLG	Birmingham	West Midlands
NHS Innovations Yorkshire & Humber (Medipex Healthcare Innovation Hub)	DHSC	CLG	Leeds	Yorkshire and the Humber
Scottish Health Innovations	DHSC	CLG	Clydebank	Scotland
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	DWP	Executive NDPB	Buxton	East Midlands
Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)	MOD	GoCo	Aldermaston, Burghfield, Blacknest, Coulport	South East and Scotland
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)	MOD	Executive agency	Porton Down, Portsdown West, Fort Halstead, Alverstone, Langhurst	South West, South East
UK Hydrographic Office	MOD	Executive agency	Tauton, Somerset	South West
Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL)	Part of HSE	Part of HSE	Buxton	East Midlands
Marine Scotland Science (MSS)	Scottish Government	Scientific Division of Marine Scotland	Edinburgh	Scotland

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
National Galleries of Scotland	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland
National Library of Scotland	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	22 offices across Scotland	Scotland
National Library of Wales	Welsh Government	Charity and Welsh Government Sponsored Body	Aberystwyth	Wales
Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Government	NDPB	15 sites across Wales	Wales

Source(s):

Home Office, Immigration Rules (Annex 2: UKRI approved UK research organisations), accessed 22 July 2020; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-w-immigration-rules-for-workers>
 BEIS, R&D roadmap, 1 July 2020; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896799/UK_Research_and_Development_Roadmap.pdf
 Individual research organisations' websites.

Research Council institutes

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Earlham Institute	BBSRC	CLG	Norwich	East of England
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS)	BBSRC		Aberystwyth	Wales
Quadram Institute Bioscience	BBSRC	CLG	Norwich	East of England
Roslin Institute	BBSRC	CLG	Edinburgh	Scotland
Rothamsted Research	BBSRC	CLG	Harpenden	East of England
Babraham Institute	BBSRC	CLG	Cambridge	East of England
John Innes Centre	BBSRC	CLG	Norwich	East of England
The Pirbright Institute	BBSRC	CLG	Woking	South East
Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (part of UKAEA)	BEIS		Abingdon	South East
Alan Turing Institute	EPSRC	CLG	London	London
Henry Royce Institute	EPSRC	Private limited Company	Manchester	North West
Rosalind Franklin Institute	EPSRC	CLG	Harwell	South East
The Faraday Institution	EPSRC	CLG	Harwell	South East
UK Collaboratorium for Research on Infrastructure and Cities (UKCRIC)	EPSRC		London	London
Institute for Fiscal Studies	ESRC	CLG	London	London
Health Data Research UK (HDR UK)	MRC	CLG	31 locations across the UK	
MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology	MRC		Cambridge	East of England
MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences	MRC		London	London
MRC Harwell Institute	MRC		Harwell	South East
The Francis Crick Institute	MRC	Private limited Company	London	London
British Antarctic Survey	NERC		Cambridge	East of England
British Geological Survey	NERC		Nottingham	East Midlands

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
National Centre for Atmospheric Science	NERC		Headquarters in Leeds, plus 12 universities and research institutes across the UK	Yorkshire and the Humber
National Centre for Earth Observation	NERC		Leicester	East Midlands
Plymouth Marine Laboratory	NERC	CLG	Plymouth	South West
Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (SAMS)	NERC	CLG	Oban	Scotland
Boulby Underground Science Facility	STFC		Cleveland	North East
Central Laser Facility	STFC		Harwell	South East
Chilbolton Observatory	STFC		Stockbridge	South East
Daresbury Laboratory	STFC		Daresbury	North West
Diamond Light Source	STFC	Private limited Company	Harwell	South East
Hartree Centre	STFC		Daresbury	North West
Isaac Newton Group	STFC		Spain	Non-UK
ISIS Neutron and Muon Source	STFC		Harwell	South East
Joint Astronomy Centre	STFC		Hawaii	Non-UK
RAL Space	STFC		Harwell	South East
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory	STFC		Harwell	South East
UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UK ATC)	STFC		Edinburgh	Scotland
European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI)	UKRI		Hinxton	East of England

Source(s):

Home Office, Immigration Rules (Annex 2: UKRI approved UK research organisations), accessed 22 July 2020; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-w-immigration-rules-for-workers>

UKRI, Check if you are eligible for research and innovation funding, updated 21 October 2020; <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/>

BEIS, R&D roadmap, 1 July 2020; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896799/UK_Research_and_Development_Roadmap.pdf

Individual research organisations' websites.

MRC units, centres and institutes

Organisation	MRC units, centres or institutes	University partnership(s)/ location(s)	Location(s)	Region(s)
The Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology	MRC centre	University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Scotland
The MRC Centre for Drugs Safety Science	MRC centre	University of Liverpool	Liverpool	North West
The Centre for Environment and Health	MRC centre	Imperial College London and Kings College London	London	London
The MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis	MRC centre	Imperial College	London	London
The MRC Centre for Medical Mycology	MRC centre	University of Exeter	Exeter	South West
The MRC Centre for Molecular Bacteriology and Infection	MRC centre	Imperial College	London	London
Mary Lyon Centre	MRC centre		Harwell	South East
MRC Versus Arthritis Centre for Integrated Research into Musculoskeletal Ageing Research	MRC centre	Universities of Liverpool, Sheffield and Newcastle	Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle	North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East
MRC Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work	MRC centre	Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham, NHS Hospital Trusts	Birmingham, Nottingham	West Midlands, East Midlands
MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders	MRC centre	Kings College London	London	London
MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases	MRC centre	UCL	London	London
MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics	MRC centre	Cardiff University	Cardiff	Wales
MRC Centre for Reproductive Health	MRC centre	University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Scotland
MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research	MRC centre	University of Glasgow	Glasgow	Scotland
MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine	MRC institute	University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Scotland
MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences	MRC institute	Imperial College	London	London
The MRC Metabolic Research Laboratories	MRC institute	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB)	MRC institute		Cambridge	East of England

Organisation	MRC units, centres or institutes	University partnership(s)/ location(s)	Location(s)	Region(s)
MRC Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology	MRC institute	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute	MRC institute	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Biostatistics Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Brain Network Dynamics Unit	MRC unit	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
MRC Cancer Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Clinical Trials Unit	MRC unit	UCL	London	London
MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Epidemiology Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Human Genetics Unit	MRC unit	University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Scotland
MRC Human Immunology Unit	MRC unit	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit	MRC unit	University of Bristol	Bristol	South West
MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit	MRC unit	University of Southampton	Southampton	South East
MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing	MRC unit	UCL	London	London
MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
MRC Laboratory for Molecular Cell Biology	MRC unit	UCL	London	London
MRC Molecular Haematology Unit	MRC unit	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine	MRC unit	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit	MRC unit		Harwell	South East
The MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit	MRC unit	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	London	London
MRC Population Health Research Unit	MRC unit	University of Oxford	Oxford	South East
MRC Prion Unit	MRC unit	UCL	London	London

Organisation	MRC units, centres or institutes	University partnership(s)/ location(s)	Location(s)	Region(s)
MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit	MRC unit	University of Dundee	Dundee	Scotland
MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit	MRC unit	University of Glasgow	Glasgow	Scotland
MRC Unit The Gambia	MRC unit	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	London	London
MRC Toxicology Unit	MRC unit	University of Cambridge	Cambridge	East of England
Health Data Research UK (HDR UK)			31 locations across the UK	

Source(s):

<https://mrc.ukri.org/about/institutes-units-centres/list-of-institutes-units-centres/>

Some MRC institutes are listed in the Research Council institutes section.

Catapult centres

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Cell and gene therapy	IUK	CLG	Central London	London
Compound semiconductor applications	IUK	CLG	Newport	Wales
Connected places	IUK	CLG	Central London, Milton Keynes, Leeds, Glasgow	London, South East, Yorkshire and The Humber, Scotland
Digital	IUK	CLG	London, North East and Tees Valley, Northern Ireland, Brighton	London, North East, Northern Ireland, South East
Energy systems	IUK	CLG	Birmingham, Derby	West Midlands, North West
High value manufacturing	IUK	CLG	Blythe, Inchinnan, Sheffield, Coventry, Liverpool, Bristol, County Durham, Cleveland	West Midlands, Scotland, Yorkshire and the Humber, North West, South West, North East
Medicines discovery	IUK	CLG	Cheshire	North West
Offshore renewable energy	IUK	CLG	Glasgow, Blyth, Levenmouth, Hull, Cornwall, Aberdeen, Pembrokeshire, Lowestoft, China	Scotland, West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, East of England, South West, Wales, China
Satellite applications	IUK	CLG	Harwell	South East

Source(s):

<https://catapult.org.uk/>

Individual Catapult centres' websites.

Independent research organisations

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
All NHS Trusts, Hospitals, Boards, Primary Care Trusts and GP Practices			All	All
Anthony Nolan		CLG	London	London
Armagh Observatory			Armagh	Northern Ireland
Beatson Institute for Cancer Research	CRUK	Charitable Trust	Bearsden	Scotland
BirdLife International		CLG	Cambridge	East of England
British Film Institute	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
British Institute of International and Comparative Law		CLG	London	London
British Library	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
British Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
British Trust for Ornithology		CLG	Norfolk	East of England
Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre		CLG	Cambridge	East of England
Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International		Charitable Trust	Wallingford	South East
CERN			Non-UK	Non-UK
Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)		Royal Charter company	London	London
Earthwatch Institute			Non-UK	Non-UK
European Bioinformatics Institute			Cambridge	East of England
European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)			Non-UK	Non-UK
Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	DDCMS	NDPB	Swindon	South West
Historic Environment Scotland	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland
Historic Royal Palaces		Charitable Trust	London, Hillsborough	London, Northern Ireland
HR Wallingford Group		CLG	Wallingford	South East
Imperial War Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Institute of Development Studies		CLG	Brighton	South East
Institute of Occupational Medicine		Charitable Trust	Edinburgh	Scotland
International Institute for Environment and Development		CLG	London	London
London Institute for Mathematical Sciences (LIMS)		CLG	London	London
Marine Biological Association		CLG	Plymouth	South West
Moredun Research Institute		CLG	Penicuik	Scotland
Museum of London Archaeology		CLG	London	London
National Archives	DDCMS	Non-ministerial department	London	London
National Centre for Social Research		CLG	London	London
National Gallery	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB)		CLG	Cambridge	East of England
National Institute of Economic and Social Research		CLG	London	London
National Maritime Museum		Private Limited Company	Greenwich	London
National Museum Wales	Welsh Government	Royal Charter company	7 locations across Wales	Wales
National Museums Liverpool	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	Liverpool	North West
National Museums of Scotland	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland
National Oceanography Centre	NERC	CLG	Southampton, Liverpool	South East
National Portrait Gallery	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Natural History Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Nesta		CLG	London	London
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)		CLG	London	London
RAND Europe Community Interest Company		Private Limited Company	Cambridge	East of England
Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh	Scottish Government	Executive NDPB	Edinburgh	Scotland

Organisation	Sponsor/partner	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew	Defra	Executive NDPB	London	London
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds		Royal Charter company	Headquarters in Sandy with regional offices across the UK	East of England
Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies		Royal Charter company	London	London
Science Museum Group	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Sightsavers		Charitable Trust	Chippenham	South West
Tate	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London, Liverpool, St Ives	London, North West, East of England
Tavistock Institute of Human Relations		CLG	London	London
The James Hutton Institute	Charity	CLG	Dundee	Scotland
The National Trust		Private Limited Company	Swindon	South West
The Office for Health Economics		CLG	London	London
The Welding Institute (TWI)		Private Limited Company	Cambridge	East of England
Young Foundation		CLG	London	London
UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	NERC	CLG	Bangor, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Wallingford	Wales, Scotland, North West, South East
Transport Research Laboratory		Private Limited Company	Crowthorne	South East
Victoria and Albert Museum	DDCMS	Executive NDPB	London	London
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	Wellcome Trust	Charitable Trust	Saffron Walden	East of England
World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)		CLG	Cambridge	East of England
Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology		Charitable Trust	London	London

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UKRI, Check if you are eligible for research and innovation funding, updated 21 October 2020; <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/>
Individual research organisations' websites.

Private non-profit research organisations

Organisation	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
Academic Health Science Network, North East and North Cumbria	CLG	Newcastle upon Tyne	North East
BMT Group	CLG	Teddington	London
BRE Group	CLG	Watford	East of England
BSRIA Ltd	CLG	Bracknell, Preston	South East, North West
Campden BRI	CLG	Chipping Campden, Nutfield and Leamington Spa	South West, South East, West Midlands
Centre for Process Innovation (CPI)	CLG	Wilton	South West
Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA)	CLG	London	London
DG Cities Ltd	Charitable Trust	North Greenwich	London
FloWave TT Ltd	CLG	Edinburgh	Scotland
Fraunhofer UK Research Ltd	CLG	Glasgow	Scotland
Glass Futures	CLG	Merseyside, Leeds	North West, Yorkshire and The Humber
Institute for Environmental Analytics (IEA)		Reading	South East
Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC)	CLG	Coventry	West Midlands
Materials Processing Institute (MPI)	CLG	Middlesbrough	North East
NHS Innovations North West (Trustech Healthcare Innovation)	Private Limited Company	Manchester	North West
Northern Automotive Alliance (NAA)	CLG	Liverpool	North West
Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (Nuclear AMRC)		Sheffield	Yorkshire and The Humber
Organic Research Centre	CLG	Cirencester	South West

Organisation	Company type	Location(s)	Region(s)
SATRA Technology Centre	CLG	Kettering	East Midlands
Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science	CLG	Plymouth	South West
Smith Institute	CLG	Guildford	South East
Stockbridge Technology Centre	CLG	Selby	Yorkshire and The Humber
Thatcham Research	CLG	Thatcham	South East
The European Marine Energy Centre	CLG	Orkney	Scotland
The Oil and Gas Technology Centre (OGTC)	CLG	Aberdeen	Scotland
The Sainsbury Laboratory	CLG	Norwich Research Park	East of England
Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University (SLCU)	CLG	Cambridge	East of England
The Scotch Whisky Research Institute	CLG	Edinburgh	Scotland

Source(s):

Individual research organisations' websites.