

Current grant portfolio and 2014/15 grant funding data

Current grant portfolio

We currently support 3,220 active grants with a total value of £2,902 million (Figures 1 and 2). The grants currently employ over 11,000 people. Of these, 2,329 grants with a value of £2,441m are managed by our Science division, 651 grants with a value of £128m are managed by our Culture and Society division, 172 grants with a value of £301m are managed by our Innovations division, and 68 grants with a value of £32m are managed by our Strategy division.

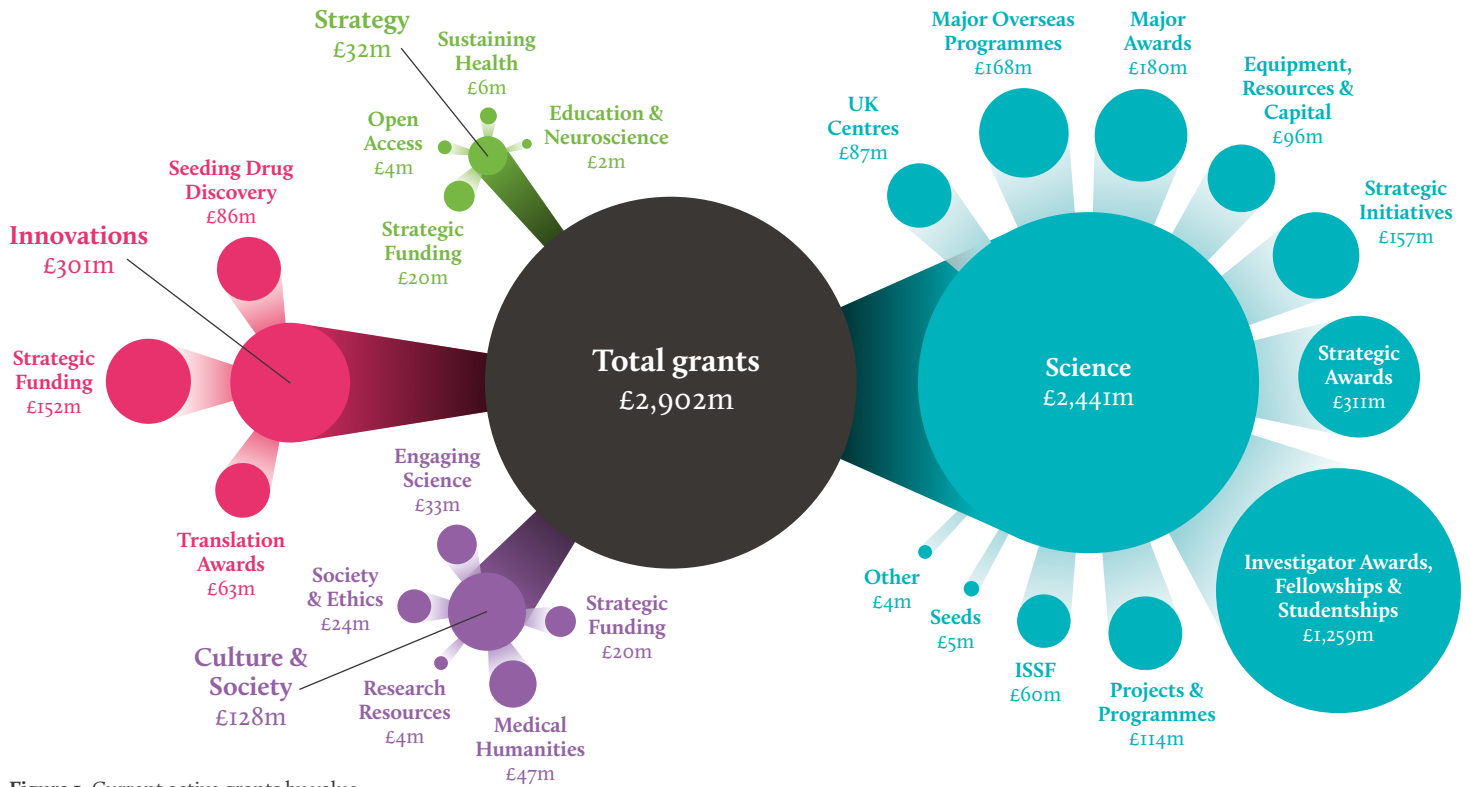
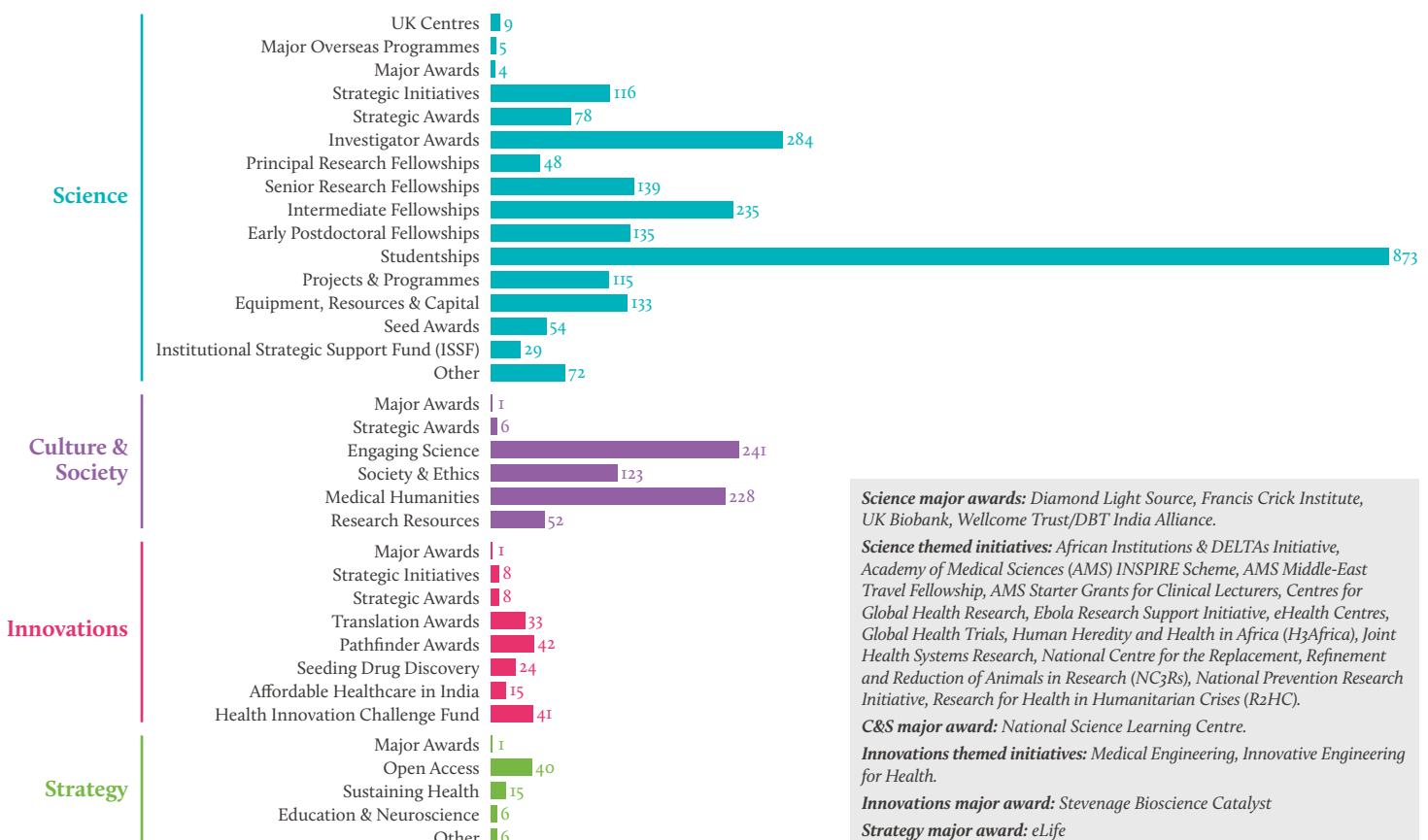


Figure 1. Current active grants by value



Science major awards: Diamond Light Source, Francis Crick Institute, UK Biobank, Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance.

Science themed initiatives: African Institutions & DELTAs Initiative, Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) INSPIRE Scheme, AMS Middle-East Travel Fellowship, AMS Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers, Centres for Global Health Research, Ebola Research Support Initiative, eHealth Centres, Global Health Trials, Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa), Joint Health Systems Research, National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), National Prevention Research Initiative, Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC).

C&S major award: National Science Learning Centre.

Innovations themed initiatives: Medical Engineering, Innovative Engineering for Health.

Innovations major award: Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst

Strategy major award: eLife

Figure 2. Current active grants by number

Grants awarded 2014/15

In the 2014/15 financial year we considered more than 7,400 concept notes, preliminary and full applications requesting over £7.5 billion in funding. We considered full applications worth over £2.1 billion and awarded 1,227 new grants worth £631 million and 408 supplementary and enhancement grants worth £55m (Figure 3).

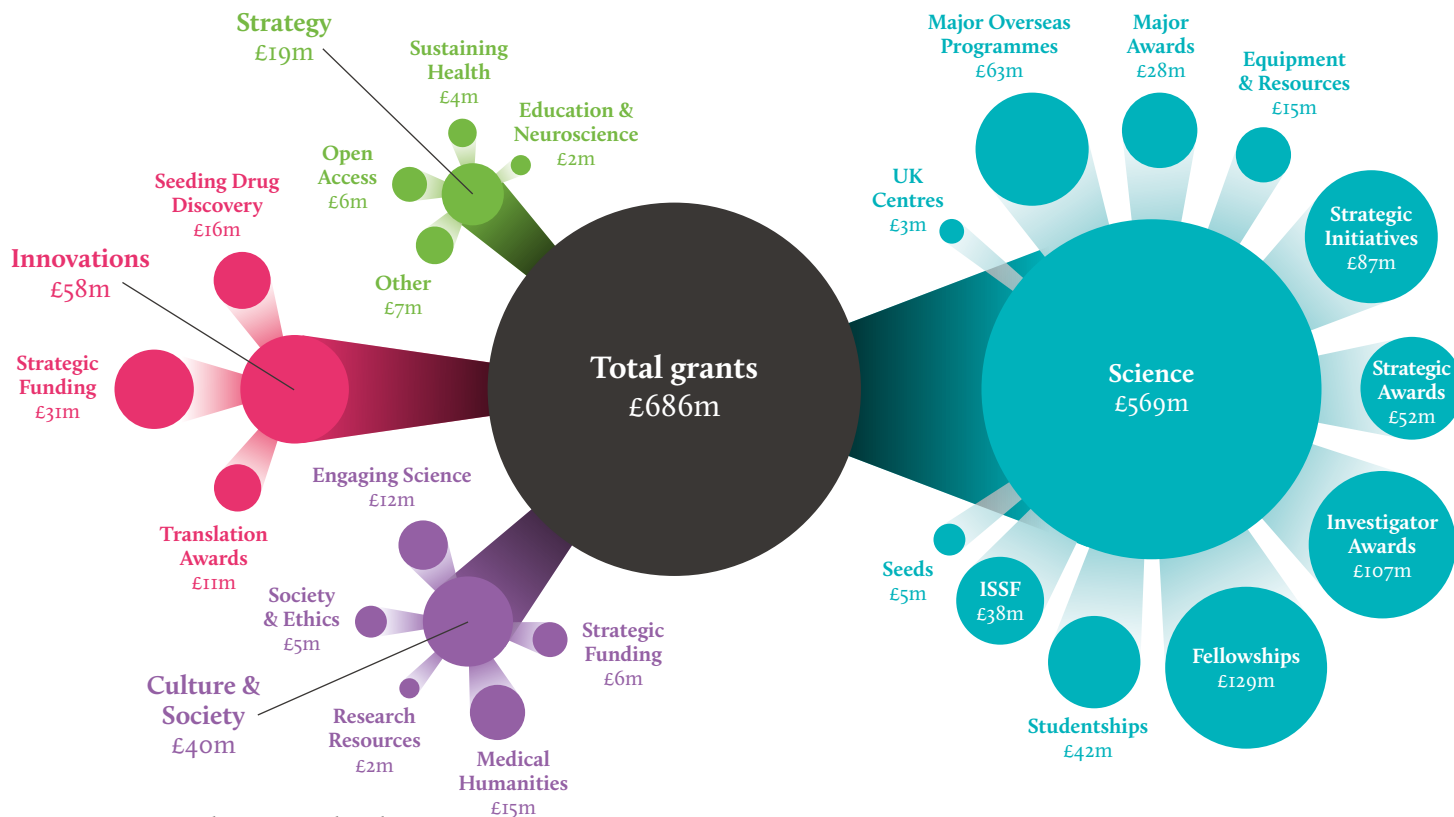


Figure 3. Grant expenditure 2014/15 by value

Award rates

In 2014/15 we received 3,535 full grant applications to our response-mode schemes and made 783 awards – an award rate of 22 per cent. The total number of full applications received in 2014/15 has risen by 49%, mainly due to the launch of our new Seed Award and Collaborative Award schemes.



Figure 4. Application numbers and award rates

A note on the award rate data: These grants are response-mode and are awarded following a conventional competitive assessment process. Grants that have bespoke review processes have been excluded. For example, PhD studentship programmes are assessed competitively, but the individual studentship awards are nominated by the host programmes. Other types of grant excluded from the award rate analysis are Vacation Scholarships, miscellaneous and small-value grants, open access funding awards, the Institutional Strategic Support Fund, and supplementary awards.

Funding by area of strength

Our new strategic framework identified areas of strength where we see exciting developments with lasting potential. In 2014/15, grant expenditure has been distributed across these areas as shown in Figure 5.

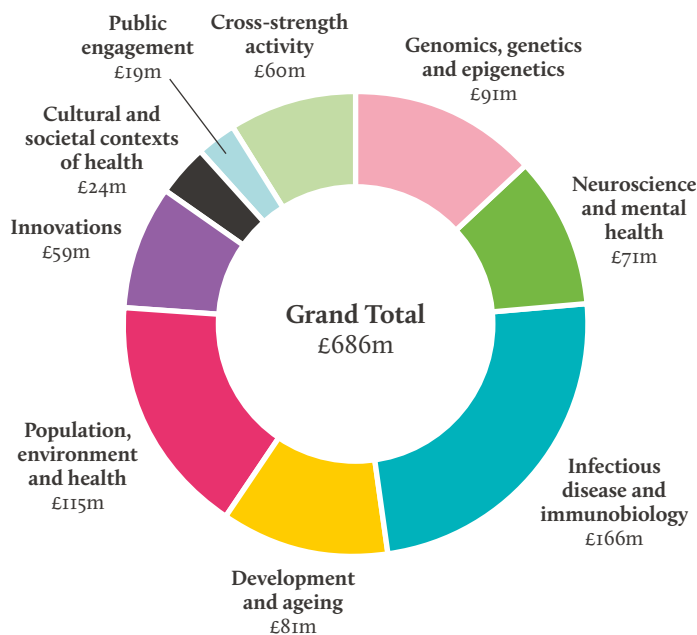


Figure 5. Grant expenditure by area of strength 2014/15

A note on area of strength data: Our funding often addresses more than one of our areas of strength simultaneously. The above data are based on the primary area addressed. For some of our research – classified as ‘cross-challenge’ – it is not possible to assign a primary area; such awards include large-value and underpinning awards for the Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance, AMS Springboard Awards, the Institutional Strategic Support Fund, and open access publishing awards.

Funding by gender and age

Over the past five years 42 per cent of all applicants were female and 58 per cent were male, and 40 per cent of grants were awarded to females and 60 per cent were awarded to males. The proportion of awards made to female and male applicants differs between the funding divisions, as shown in Figure 6. The overall award rate across the three funding divisions has been 22 per cent for female applicants and 24 per cent for male applicants. The average age of award recipients across the three funding divisions is also shown in Figure 6. The average age of award recipients in Innovations is higher as career-based support schemes are not used.

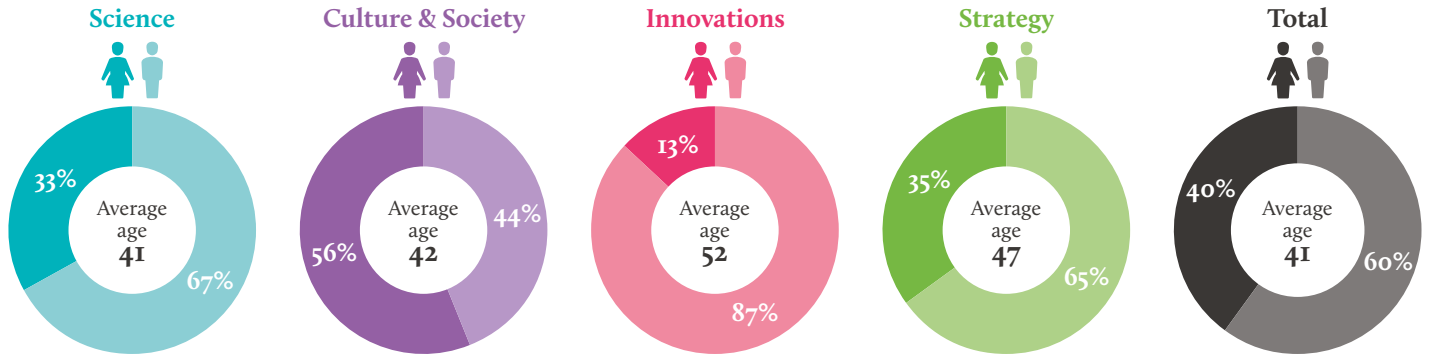


Figure 6. Grant awards by gender and age over the past five years

Funding by gender and age – Science personal support schemes

Gender & Age profile

We currently support 837 researchers on our science personal support schemes (284 Investigator Awards and 553 fellowships). The gender and age (at date of award) for these researchers are shown by grant type in Figure 7.

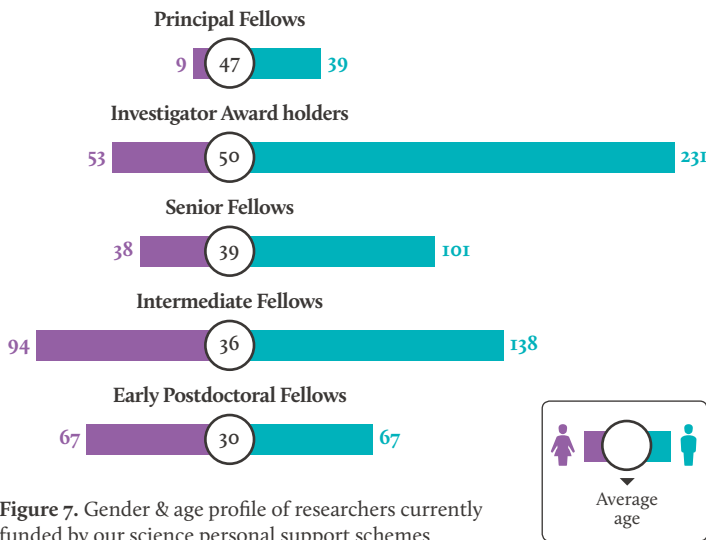


Figure 7. Gender & age profile of researchers currently funded by our science personal support schemes

We also support 873 PhD and Masters Students on personal Studentships. 465 of these awards are held by women and 394 are held by men. Data are not available for 14 Students.

Award rates

Over the past five years, the full application award rate for our Science personal support schemes was 23% for male applicants and 20% for female applicants. The award rate for these schemes at interview was 52% for male applicants and 53% for female applicants. Last year, the award rate was 22% for male applicants and 23% for female applicants.

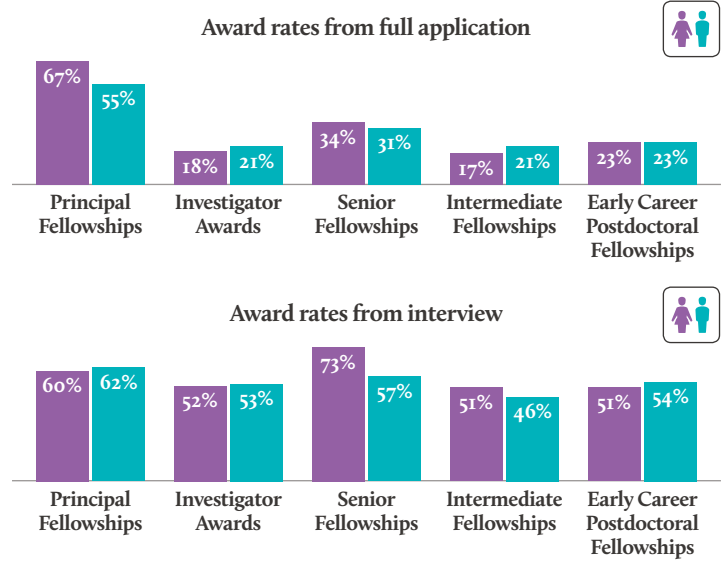
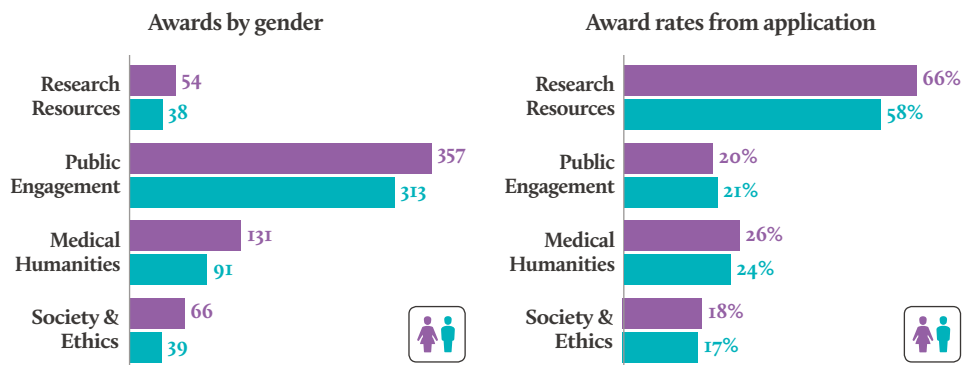


Figure 8. Awards rates by gender for applicants to Science personal support schemes over the past five years, from full application and at interview.

Funding by gender and age – Culture & Society remits

Over the past five years, the award rate for our applications to our Culture & Society schemes was 22% for male applicants and 23% for female applicants. Females were awarded 59% of grants in Medical Humanities, 63% of grants in Society & Ethics, 59% of grants for Research Resources, and 53% of grants for Public Engagement.

Figure 9. Number of awards and awards rates by gender for applications to Culture & Society remits over the past five years.



A note on the above data: These grants are response-mode and are awarded following a conventional competitive assessment process. Grants that have bespoke review processes have been excluded, for example C&S small grants, symposia and travel grants, and supplementary awards.