

Research Update

Response to Research Active Staff Survey

Professor Pam Thomas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)

28 July, 2020



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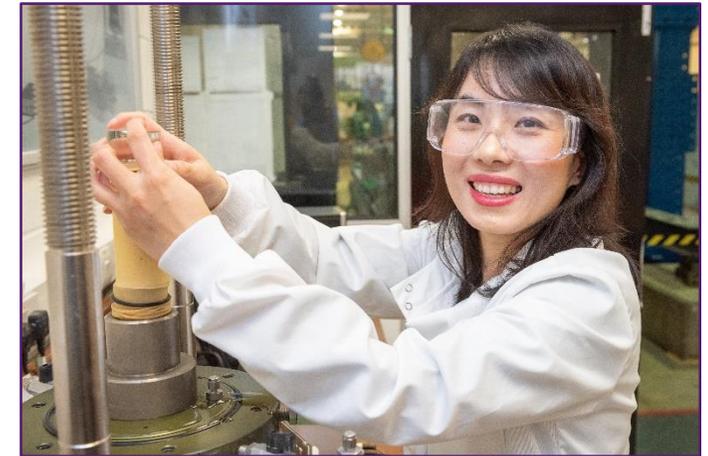
Research at Warwick

You asked for: reassurance that research is valued and the University will not undermine its research-intensive character.

The University continues to have an undimmed commitment to maintaining the health and vitality of the Warwick research environment across all disciplines.

Research is one of the University's five key principles for recovery:

To lead, influence and bring about positive transformation in the world by maintaining and accelerating our world-leading disciplinary and interdisciplinary research



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Research Income

You asked for: the development and communication of a plan for delayed research.

Warwick has been at the centre of strategic level discussions with funding agencies and government, to secure a strong and fair compensation package for the impact of Covid-19 on research.

- **UKRI** recently announced a grant extension allocation for Research Council funded projects: Warwick's allocation £5.3 million, details on accessing this will be made available shortly;
- **Wellcome Trust** and **British Academy** have offered costed extension for certain schemes;
- Expecting further details from **National academies** on funding support.

Supporting researchers

You asked for: the effect of the pandemic be taken into account in relation to promotion.

- **Academic Promotion** framework allows for a high level of excellence in one (or more) activity to partially compensate for slightly lower levels of achievement in other areas;
- The process will give **full and fair consideration** to the way in which workloads may have been **rebalanced during the pandemic** and to contributions that have been made to institutional priorities at this time;
- University to **review position on academic promotions in September**, with a view to putting in place a new timetable.

Supporting researchers

You asked for: the effect of the pandemic be taken into account in relation to probation.

- Senior managers are doing all that they can to **mitigate impacts** and to take the effects of the situation into account;
- **Extensions** will be given where needed due to impacts of the pandemic.



Supporting researchers

You asked for: more clarity on expectations about teaching vs research.

- PVC (Research) champion for researchers across the institution;
- Expectation that research contracts will be honoured and researchers treated fairly.

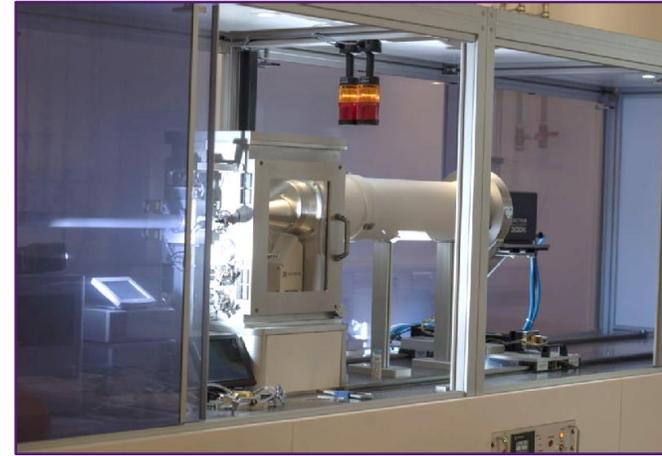
You asked for: recognition that home working and balancing work and family/caring responsibilities was a cause of concern

- University provision of wellbeing support;
- Question regarding research added to Covid-19 Staff Support Survey for greater understanding of researcher concerns and the impact of Covid-19.

Research Infrastructure

You asked for: reassurance concerning the inability to conduct essential research

- **'Business Critical'** labs and equipment remained **operational** in lockdown;
- **RTPs** now operational;
- Phased **re-opening of labs and associated spaces** in progress with prioritisation of activity by academic departments;
- Comprehensive **risk assessments** to ensure safe re-opening of campus: Safety, health and wellbeing of the community remains a priority;
- Library implementing **alternative processes** e.g. new Click & Collect service



Research Funding (internal)

You asked for: internal research funding (such as RDF) to be available to researchers

- **Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)** have continued to operate during the lockdown period, delivering internal support for innovative translational research projects;
- The **Institutional Research Support Fund (IRSF)** has been launched to support researchers to access funding for ‘business critical’ spend:
 - **Seed-corn funding to support new projects leading to external grant applications to prestigious research funders**
 - **Open Access costs**
 - **Publishing costs including image copyright**
- Financial savings required across all areas, including research - support for **IRSF** demonstrates University **commitment to research**.

Research Funding (external)

You asked for: concerns about match funding and applying for grants with low recovery to be acknowledged

- University **match funding** on **external research applications** ensures that Warwick's research environment is sufficiently robust to withstand present challenges and achieve sustainability over the longer term;
- We are **continuing to support bids** to funders with lower recovery rates;
- All bids will be reviewed by senior managers and assessed as to a number of criteria, including **prestige and pathways to further funding**;
- Warwick continues to have a thriving research environment with successes in **prestigious fellowship schemes** (including UKRI FLF, Leverhulme, British Academy and Marie Curie).

Research Excellence

You asked for: more certainty regarding REF

- REF submission deadline confirmed as **31 March, 2021**;
- Warwick's **REF preparations are well advanced** and are continuing through support for academic departments to ensure that all units are in a strong position for submission.



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Research Communications

You asked for: more communications for the Research Active Staff community

- R&IS web pages provide **funder updates** and **full R&IS service operational**;
- Regular research communications through **Inbox Insite**;
- **Research stories / Warwick's research expertise** profiled regularly on a variety of channels throughout the pandemic;
- Going forward, **more regular communications with PVC (Research)** and Research Staff Forum.

Thank you for your contribution to Warwick's research

Questions?

