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.

The technology that drives 95% of the world’s smart phones, 80% of digital cameras, and 35% of all electronic devices was developed in the UK9.

The digital sector employs 3% of the UK workforce and contributes nearly £69 billion GVA to the UK economy10.

A quarter of the world’s top 100 prescription medicines were discovered and developed in the UK10.

The most frequent partner countries for UK research publications are the US (12%), Germany (7%), France (4%) and Italy (4%)12.

The UK was the largest recipient of foreign direct investment in R&D in Europe in 201412.

UK research is international

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

In the 2016 Global Innovation Index, the UK was ranked 3rd overall out of 128 countries13.

In 2015 over half of the UK’s research output was the result of an international collaboration and these collaborations are increasing9.

Nearly 72% of UK-based researchers spent time at non-UK institutions between 1996 and 20123.

The most frequent partner countries for UK research publications are the US (12%), Germany (7%), France (4%) and Italy (4%)12.

The UK was the largest recipient of foreign direct investment in R&D in Europe in 201412.

In 2015 over half of the UK’s research output was the result of an international collaboration and these collaborations are increasing9.

Nearly 72% of UK-based researchers spent time at non-UK institutions between 1996 and 20123.

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

---

8. Ipsos MORI 2014.
9. ARM.
10. BMI Research, United Kingdom Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare Report, Q1 2016.
12. The Global Innovation Index 2016. Note that figures are rounded.
Who invests in UK R&D

Who does UK R&D?

Key
- Higher Education
- Business
- Government and Research Councils
- Private Non-Profit
- Overseas

£31 billion

Note that figures are rounded.

How much does the EU invest in UK R&D?

The UK currently has 15% of all awarded grants in Horizon 2020 – the current EU research funding programme – the largest share among participating countries.

Who receives EU research funding? (distribution of Framework Programme 7, 2007 – 13, in the UK)

Key
- UK Universities
- UK Businesses
- Research Organisations
- Other
- Public Bodies

€6.9bn

How does UK investment in R&D compare globally?

Between 2007 and 2013, the EU invested 8.8 billion Euros into UK research development and innovation.

In 2013/14, 10% of research funding in UK Higher Education Institutes came from the EU.

Key
- Industry spend on R&D
- Government spend on R&D

Percentage of GDP

UK


Reference: OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators 2013.