Research Administration News

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NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

1. Wellcome Trust: New Open Access Policy

The Wellcome Trust has announced a new Open Access Policy which will take effect from 1 January 2020, requiring all Wellcome-funded research to be made freely available under a Creative Commons licence via PubMed Central and Europe PMC at the time of publication with no embargo. The policy also requires pre-prints to be shared prior to peer review where there is a ‘significant public health benefit’.

From January 2020, Wellcome will no longer cover the costs of OA publishing in subscription journals and expects all organisations it funds to commit to the San Francisco Declaration on Research assessment (DORA), of which Imperial is already a signatory. Articles submitted for publication before 1 January 2020 will be covered by Wellcome’s existing Open Access Policy.

Further guidance for researchers will be available on the Library’s Open Access pages shortly.

2. Benefits In-Kind: New Guidance

New Finance guidance on the accounting treatment of Benefits in Kind has been published. Benefits in Kind which are related to research projects should be recorded in the College’s accounts provided that they satisfy the criteria outlined in the guidance. These will then count towards the College’s research volume. Any Benefits in Kind relating to research projects not funded by UKRI should be referred to the Research Office in the first instance for review.

3. Journals Processed on Research Projects

Recent audits of external research funding have highlighted significant numbers of corrective journals which are processed on research projects. Whilst costs should be charged to the correct project code from the outset wherever possible, in cases where journals are unavoidable, Departments should retain a full breakdown of the costs to be transferred and ensure that supporting evidence can be provided to an auditor if requested.

Where journals are selected as part of an audit sample, the auditor may request backing documentation for each item transferred (e.g. if a journal is made up of 20 lines, then evidence for all 20 individual lines may be requested). Costs are likely to be disallowed if Departments are unable to provide a full breakdown and/or cannot adequately explain how the costs specifically relate to the project.

The NIH Post-Award Golden Rules have been updated. This includes a link to the EU Open Skies Policy (which simplifies guidance on European airline flights permitted on NIH awards) and a new section on managing budgets.

5. GRANTFinder 4 Education: Training sessions

As advised in the last bulletin, Idox GRANTfinder 4 Education was selected by the Faculty Research Strategy Managers as the College’s new provider of information on research funding opportunities and news, replacing Research Professional.

To help you get started on using the service, three training sessions have been organised on 12 December 2018. The second session of the day will be tailored for research managers, and the other two sessions are open to all College staff. Please register for the session you would like to attend.

6. RO Bulletin Archive

The Research Office Bulletins for the whole of 2018 are now available to download from the Research Office website. Future editions will be added to the website.

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Regular links: Research Office Training RO Bulletin Archive