

Annual Financial Return: Frequently asked questions about research grants and contracts, and related income

Where should funding from Research England go?

All funding from Research England should be entered into the relevant row of section 2: Funding body grants of Table 4: Analysis of income. This includes any awards for research projects such as some funding from the Research England Development Fund (RED fund).

Where should UKRI funding from the Talent and Research Stabilisation Fund be entered?

This funding does not meet all the criteria to be classified as research income reportable in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts. It should be entered into row 2h: Other non-capital funding grants of Table 4: Analysis of income.

Which source should awards from the UKRI Horizon Europe guarantee scheme be allocated to?

As long as the funding meets the criteria to be recorded in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts, it should be entered into column 1h UK Research and Innovation (whichever route through UKRI it took).

Can UKRI Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) funding be included in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts?

UKRI generally regards the UKRI Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) programme funding as for knowledge exchange (KE) activities and therefore expects to see the income recorded in Table 4: Analysis of income, row 4ai: UK public sources.

Only if the funding meets all the criteria for inclusion in table 5 should it be recorded under column 1h: UK Research and Innovation. Documentation relating to how you classified SIPF funding as research income should be kept in case of audit.

Please note: although SIPF is co-delivered by Innovate UK and Research England it should be entered as UKRI funding as it is a UKRI-funded strategic programme. Please only include the elements that are being awarded to your higher education provider and do not include the awards being made to other members of your consortium. For the purposes of reporting, the sums included for secondary grant funding, prior to the awards being made, should be included in the sum reported for the lead organisation.

We have some research funding from UKRI. Which source should it be entered under in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts?

Some funding is awarded by UKRI but is administered by individual research councils within UKRI (until the new UKRI funding system is fully released).

- Eligible grants awarded from a funding opportunity advertised by a specific council should be classed under that council.
- Eligible funding opportunity awards under 'UKRI-wide', such as Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) scheme, should be classed as UKRI funding.

A research funding opportunity is run by more than one UKRI research council. Which source in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts should funding be assigned to?

Jointly funded eligible grants should be split between sources as specified in the agreement.

Should all UKRI funding go into Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts?

Only funding that meets the criteria to be recorded in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts should be included.

Formula or non-research grants should be included in Table 4: Analysis of income.

Which source in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts should we include our research grants with NC3Rs?

Research England, in consultation with NC3Rs, recommends that eligible research grants from NC3Rs should be recorded under column 1h: UK Research and Innovation on Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts.

Which income table should research studentship funding go in?

As per paragraph 49 of the 'Guidance on completing the Annual Financial Return 2023 workbook', income or funding for research studentships should be returned in section 4: Research training support grants of Table 6: Analysis of income – Course fees and education contracts analysed by domicile, mode, level and source.

Studentships can only be returned in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts if the funding has been awarded as part of a research grant or contract that meets all the criteria for inclusion in table 5.

A research grant has some funding for training. Can it be included in Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts?

If research funding is wholly or partly for training, this or the portion of funding allocated to this activity, should not be included.

Should funding relating to clinical trials be classified as research income?

As set out in 'Annex A: Annual Financial Return 2023 additional guidance', income related to research and experimental development (R&D) should conform to the conventions set out in the 2015 Frascati Manual. This manual states that phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials can be treated as R&D and phase 4 clinical trials should only be treated as R&D if they bring about further scientific or technological advance. Therefore the phase of clinical trials the research grant or contract is supporting, as well as the other criteria, should be considered before entering into Table 5: Analysis of income – Research grants and contracts.

All guidance for providers for the Annual Financial Return is at:
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-14-guidance-for-annual-financial-returns/.