

# Looking Forward

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Director of Research



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

# Role of the Director of Research

- Engagement with the academic community
- Contribution to the development of strategy and research programmes for the next Comprehensive Spending Review
- Overseeing training of the peer review college
- Ensuring the success of the new postgraduate schemes and new decision-making structures

# Achievements of the AHRC

- AHRC embedded as a Council with a clear identity
- Research behaviours in Arts and Humanities communities are changing
- Training provision for postgraduates improved
- Excellent relationships established with museums, galleries, libraries and archives, and creative and performing arts communities
- Strategic programmes developed, many in collaboration with other research councils
- Internal restructuring underway to result in more efficient, effective, responsive, creative and flexible working environment

# DIUS Challenge

What is it that distinguishes the AHRC from other funding bodies?

(e.g. QR, British Academy, Wellcome, Arts Council, Leverhulme)

# Government assumptions about Research Council purpose

- Collaborative and/or interdisciplinary research
- Research of strategic importance (equated with themes and 'big ideas')
- Research that has [economic] impact
- Contribution to the skills agenda

# In what ways are we different from the other research councils?

- Individual scholar
- Time as a key requirement in research
- Our infrastructural needs are different
- Small amounts of funding can have a big impact
- Size of community and breadth of disciplinary coverage

*How can the arts and humanities research communities interpret these requirements in a way that is meaningful for us and compatible with the way we do our research?*

# Our interpretation of the challenges

Collaborative  
and/or  
interdisciplinary  
research

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Collegiality

# Our interpretation of the challenges

Research of strategic importance

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Princeton approach (themes that are double-coded)

# Our interpretation of the challenges

Research that has [economic] impact

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Quality of life

Role of public intellectuals

# Our interpretation of the challenges

Contribution to skills agenda

7

Articulate the unique intellectual and creative qualities and vocational achievements of our postgraduates

# Campaign for the next Comprehensive Spending Review

- To articulate our distinct identity and vision within the Council framework, taking into account our particular strengths and needs
- Consider ways we organise our schemes to ensure that we respond to both academic requirements and government pressures

# Campaign for the next Comprehensive Spending Review

- Demonstrate the unique impact of arts and humanities research
- Make a case for the added value of our postgraduate community