WUN Research Mobility Programme (2012 – 2017):

Analysis of Data from participating WUN Partners

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The WUN Partnership Board, Academic Advisory Group and Coordinators Group are invited to:

1. review the details on the enclosed paper;

2. put forward their questions and comments on the current RMP scheme, and the outcomes of this analysis;

3. recommend any changes to enhance:

   – awareness of the scheme locally;
   – connectivity in the way that this activity is executed across the network, and
   – harmonisation with existing WUN activities such as the RDFs/IRGs or summer schools.

4. advise on the development of a database facility which would allow the sharing and routine capture of the details of RMP visits.
1) Introduction – what is the WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP)?

The WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP) provides the opportunity for PhD students and research staff (from early career researchers to established professors) to visit partner WUN institutions to establish and cultivate research links.

These visits allow researchers to:

1. advance their research - via access to facilities, resources and skill-sets available at their host institutions,
2. establish new and deepen existing collaborative research links with WUN counterparts,
3. gain experience of working and living in different research and work cultures, and
4. further their career development.

WUN members waive any fees associated with the RMP, which typically involves short visits of 2-3 months. Each WUN partner oversees an internal competition, usually twice a year, to allocate their outbound RMP awards. Some partners operate the RMP through formal bilateral agreements but the majority of partners use an informal ‘bottom-up’ approach, responding to applications as they arise in their institutions without specific target numbers or partners, nor alignment to the WUN research profile.

2) How are these visits coordinated across the network?

Currently, home institutions administrate all aspects of their RMP schemes (publicity, facilitation, funding, feedback), and this is usually overseen by the WUN Coordinator who shares the details of their RMP awards with the Coordinators Group on Sosius.

There is therefore scope to provide a central comprehensive RMP overview and database/archive to track and report the outcomes of these visits, and to integrate and streamline existing activities on a network level. For instance, to explore how RMP visits might be dovetailed with new Research Development Fund bids or existing Interdisciplinary Research Groups, Summer Schools, Cross-cutting Themes or Enabling Cores, etc.

The WUN RMP scheme is an obvious springboard to inform discussions on increasing research student mobility across the network.

3) Who takes part?

Since 2012, 20/23 WUN partners have participated in the RMP:

- 14 members allocated outbound visits:
  1. University of Alberta
  2. University of Auckland
  3. University of Bergen
  4. University of Bristol
  5. University of Cape Town
  6. Chinese University of Hong Kong
  7. University of Ghana*
  8. University of Leeds
9. Maastricht University  
10. University of Rochester  
11. University of Sheffield  
12. University of Southampton  
13. University of Sydney  
14. University of York

- **6 members hosted inbound visitors only:**
  1. University of Nairobi*  
  2. Renmin University of China*  
  3. Tecnológico de Monterrey^  
  4. University of Massachusetts, Amherst*  
  5. University of Western Australia (outbound data too dispersed for collection and inclusion)  
  6. Zhejiang University

- **3 members have yet to take part:**
  1. National Cheng Kung University*  
  2. University College Dublin^  
  3. Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais^

New WUN members in 2015*, 2016* and 2017^ may have yet to establish their outbound RMP schemes but it is encouraging to see that many of these are already hosting WUN researchers.

4) **Analysis of RMP data (2012-2017)**

All current WUN partners were asked to submit details of their RMP awards resulting in the collation of data pertaining to 468 visits across the network since 2012.

**a) Distribution of outbound RMP awards across WUN**

The top 5 institutions with the highest number of RMP awards 2012-2017 (n = 468) are:

1. CUHK (96, 21%)  
2. Leeds (66, 14%)  
3. Bristol (61, 13%)  
4. Sheffield (46, 10%)  
5. Southampton (43, 9%)

![Distribution of Outbound RMP awards, 2012 - 2017 (n = 468)](chart.png)
b) Number of staff vs PG student awards per annum

The total number of staff to student awards is 284:184; 61% staff and 39% student awards. Mean total number of RMPs per annum from 2012-2016 is 78, with a high of 85 visits in 2012 and a low of 60 visits in 2016. Encouragingly, there was an increase in the number of awards in 2017 to 80 visits.

c) Number of staff vs PG student awards at each participating WUN partner

A relative balance of staff vs student awards was observed for CUHK (50:46) and York (17:15). Most other institutions reported more staff awards (Alberta, Auckland, Leeds, Sheffield, Sydney, UCT) with the exceptions of Bristol (22:39) and Southampton (18:25) supporting more PG student visits.
d) Distribution of schools/departments involved in RMP awards

Broad range of disciplines are represented with balanced involvement of key faculties.

e) Temporal variation in number of RMP awards at each WUN partner

In 2017, 9/23 partners made a total of 80 RMP awards:

- CUHK > Sheffield > Southampton > Bristol > Leeds > Alberta = York > Auckland = UCT
f) Number of outbound vs incoming RMP visits at each WUN partner

Data shows:

- a relative balance of outbound vs incoming researchers for Auckland and UCT;
- more outbound than incoming visits for UK WUN partners, Alberta and CUHK, and
- more incoming vs outbound visitors for Bergen, Rochester, Sydney, UMass and Zhejiang
5) Analysis of RMP data (2017 only)

The top 5 institutions with the highest number of RMP awards \( (n = 80) \) in 2017 are:

1. CUHK (20, 25%)
2. Sheffield (14, 18%)
3. Southampton (12, 15%)
4. Bristol (10, 12%)
5. Leeds (8, 10%)

![Distribution of Outbound RMP awards, 2017 only](chart.png)

### a) Number of staff vs PG student awards at each participating WUN partner in 2017

![Number of Staff vs PG Student RMP Awards at each WUN Partner in 2017](chart2.png)

A relative balance of staff vs student awards was observed for CUHK (11:9) and York (3:3). Most other institutions reported more staff awards (Alberta, Auckland, Sheffield, Southampton, UCT) with the exceptions of Bristol (4:6) and Leeds (2:6) supporting more PG student visits.
b) Number of outbound vs incoming RMP visits at each WUN partner

The 2017 WUN RMP data show that:

- 80 RMP visits were awarded by 9 WUN members and hosted by 20 members.
- New members such as Ghana, Nairobi, Renmin, Tec de Monterrey are already starting to host visitors.
6) Summary

The WUN RMP (in place since 2002) provides an opportunity for partners to send their staff and students to undertake a period of research at a WUN member institution.

Since 2012, 468 RMP awards have been made (60% staff, 40% students) across a broad spectrum of research disciplines, in particular in the areas of environmental and geographical sciences, public health, medicine and health, law and education, topics which align well with our Global Challenges. The most popular destinations to date have been Sydney, CUHK, UWA, Auckland, UCT, Alberta = Leeds, and Bristol.

In 2017, 9/23 WUN members made 80 RMP awards (54% staff, 44% students) that were hosted across 20 partners, the most popular of which was Sydney, which hosted 16 visitors. There is therefore much scope to increase the number of participating (or home) WUN partners in the RMP. Those who are already receiving visitors constitute 20/23 partners, 11 of which are not currently facilitating their own schemes.