

Practical Assistance for Overseas Researchers

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Coming to the UK – Common Issues

Working in the UK

- Funding
- Visas and work permits
- Tax, social security and pensions
- Career Pathway
- Skills development (e.g. Presentation and writing skills)
- Ethical issues (e.g. research with human tissues or animals)

Coming to the UK – Common Issues

Living in the UK

- Weather....
- Accommodation
- Finance (opening a bank account)
- Family issues (pregnancy and maternity, childcare, schooling etc)
- Benefits (child benefit, tax credits etc)
- Healthcare
- Day to day life (transport, communication etc)

What does British Council offer?

Practical Assistance

'Network UK'

Practical information on issues affecting international researchers

www.britishcouncil.org/eumobility

Funding

Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP)

International Networking for Young Scientists (INYS)

British Council Science

Other Web-based Resources

SISTER - 'Support for International Science, Technology and Engineering Research'

Guide to help researchers find funding for international research

www.britishcouncil.org/science-sister

GOST - 'Guide to the Organisation of Science and Technology in the UK'

An overview of science and science policy in the UK

www.britishcouncil.org/science-gost

Network UK

www.britishcouncil.org/eumobility

- Part of EU initiative to remove obstacles to mobility of researchers
- Initially had three components
 - Web Portal
 - Telephone helpline
 - 12 local mobility centres
- Only the portal and helpline will continue because the mobility centres were not used.

Network UK

www.britishcouncil.org.uk/eumobility



WELCOME TO THE RESEARCHERS' MOBILITY PORTAL

Are you a researcher planning to move to, or from, the UK? This portal gives you up-to-date information and assistance to make that move easier.

- ❑ THE EUROPEAN RESEARCHER'S MOBILITY PORTAL
- ❑ EU NATIONAL MOBILITY PORTALS
- ❑ EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MOBILITY CENTRES
- ❑ THE EUROPEAN CHARTER AND CODE
- ❑ SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH (SISTER)
- ❑ EUROPE4RESEARCHERS
- ❑ GUIDE TO THE ORGANISATION OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE UK (GOST)

SISTER

Our **SISTER** website can help to identify possible sources of UK funding for international research collaboration, training and travel grants.



GOST

Our **GOST** website provides a comprehensive picture of the way in which science and technology is organised in the UK.

❑ WORKING IN THE UK

Search for jobs or funding and find information about visas, pensions, social security, tax and whether your qualifications will be recognised in the UK. We also have information for employers about how to attract international researchers and ease their relocation to the UK.



❑ LIVING IN THE UK

A practical guide to living in the UK, with information on accommodation, travel, finance, health, lifestyle and family matters.



❑ RESEARCH IN THE UK

Read about the latest developments in UK science and find out how research is organised in the UK. We also have a special feature on **women in science**, engineering and technology.



❑ LEAVING THE UK

If you are planning to leave the UK and undertake research abroad, this section will give you advice on working and studying worldwide. It also provides practical information about leaving the UK.

Network UK Portal

Who uses it?

- Each month around 2500 unique visitors go to the site
- Just under half of these are based in the UK – the rest are from different countries all over the world

Network UK Portal - what do they look at?

January 2008

Total visitors: 3039 Total time on site: 86 hours

Most popular pages



Page	Page views (%)	Visitors	Hh:mm:ss
Pregnancy	25	959	11:22:38
Healthcare	14	486	10:52:49
Homepage	9	337	05:29:18
Visas	6	213	05:59:52
Homepage (htm)	5	174	03:56:05
Mobility centres	5	84	02:32:28
Tax	5	169	03:24:14
Jobs	4	141	04:44:32
Family benefits	3	108	03:21:29
Accommodation costs	3	103	02:27:50
Other	21		

EURAXESS

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>

Jobs and funding
database



Jobs

Links



A network for European
Researchers based outside
Europe

Links

Services



Personalised practical
assistance for researchers in
35 European countries

Rights

Rights



Information about European
Charter for Researchers and
Code of Conduct for
Recruitment of Researchers

Ireland

- One central mobility office working closely with universities around the country
- Six month period (Jan – Jun 2007):
 - 11,522 visitors to the portal
 - 137 researchers assisted (by telephone or in person)
 - Main queries regarding visas, work permits and job opportunities

Czech Republic

- One central mobility office with eight regional offices based in universities around the country
- Six month period (Jan – Jun 2007):
 - 2,165 visitors to the portal
 - 656 researchers assisted (by telephone or in person).
 - Main queries regarding childcare, schooling and other family issues

France

- 23 centres all over France, mostly based in ‘Reception Bureaus’ in Universities, research institutions, companies etc.
- Kastler Foundation is bridgehead organisation – already well established (founded in 1993) with a mission to ‘facilitate the visits to France by foreign researchers and to maintain contact with them after their departure’
- Six month period (Jan – Jun 2007):
 - 37,948 visitors to the portal
 - 9,496 researchers assisted (by telephone or in person)
 - Main queries regarding accommodation, visas, social security and schooling/childcare.

UK questions

- Not much uptake of personalised assistance provided through Network UK
 - Not needed, or not publicised enough?
- Network UK website used a lot to access practical information about living in UK
 - Is there a need for career development information (and provision) specifically targeted at non-UK researchers?

End

Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP)

- Supports **new** links between researchers in the UK and other countries
- Short term exchange visits (either into or out of the UK)
- Can be a single visit of between two weeks and three months duration, or multiple visits (maximum three months in total)
- Any area of research, but currently emphasis on Darwin-related research
- Only for post-docs (or PhD students with definite post-doc position) with less than 10 years experience
- Maximum award 5000 pounds. To cover travel, accommodation and subsistence and small amount for consumables.
- 2008 deadline passed – next deadline summer 2009

www.britishcouncil.org/science-rxp.htm

International Networking for Young Scientists (INYS)

- Funds short conferences in specific research areas: aims to support the creation of subsequent links and collaboration
- Any area of research (although should be priority area for UK and partner country)
- Held in partnership between UK and other country (bilateral or multilateral)
- Coordinated by experts from UK and partner country
- 15-20 participants from each country
- Participants should be young researchers (postdocs with up to 10 years of experience)
- Open call – if interested in running event please contact science team in Manchester (or local British Council office if based abroad)
- Up to 10,000 pounds available for each event – funds should be matched by organisation in partner country

www.britishcouncil.org/science-research-inys2.htm