

**NERC Training Advisory Board Meeting
Summary of Discussions
29 November 2017
I Victoria Street Conference Centre, London**

Members present: Nigel Brown (Chair), Elizabeth Baggs, Nigel Cassidy, Richard Corfield, Alistair Crame, Keith Davidson, Ewan Hunter, Johannes Laube, Rachel Mills, Gareth Phoenix, Kathryn Whaler

Apologies: Marie Edmonds, Liz Elvidge, Katrien Van Landeghem, Alexander Milner, David Roberts, Tim Wheeler

Other attendees: Robyn Thomas (Associate Director, Operations & Research Careers), Katie Tearall (Head of Research Careers), Vicki Durbridge (Senior Programme Manager, Research Careers), Andy Lloyd (Senior Programme Manager, Research Careers)

Attendees for specific items: Matthew Dobson (Senior Programme Manager, International Partnerships)

Secretary: Jennifer Wickens (Programme Manager, Research Careers)

Key Issues Discussed

Training Activities – General Update

The Training Advisory Board (TAB) noted this standing paper that outlined the status and progress of NERC's training investments.

Robyn Thomas provided TAB with a strategic update of issues affecting NERC and the Research Councils more widely. These included the transition stage of UK Research and Innovation and the new NERC Council.

Keith Davidson summarised discussions from the 8th and 9th meetings of the NERC Joint Capital Advisory Group (JCAG).

Postgraduate Training Finance Report

TAB noted the Postgraduate Training Finance report.

Belmont Forum E-Infrastructures and Data Management

Matthew Dobson presented this Belmont Forum initiative to TAB. Members discussed the appropriateness of the proposed curriculum for environmental science students and ECRs, both nationally and internationally, and provided advice to the NERC Executive on next steps.

Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs): Recommendation of priority Topics for future CDT investment

TAB considered the shortlisted focus areas to be considered for future CDT investment. The NERC Executive will use TAB's recommendation to inform its final decision regarding future CDT investments.

Commissioning DTP2 Update

TAB received an update on the DTP2 commissioning process including the timetable and call scope. TAB noted the key changes from DTPI to DTP2, which respond to the outcomes of the DTP evaluation.

Career Destinations

TAB reviewed the outcomes of an exercise to identify the current employment of the people who started a NERC-funded PhD in 2007. TAB agreed that it would be valuable to repeat the exercise for an earlier cohort to provide data over a longer time period, if resource allows.

Early Career Researchers Evaluation

TAB discussed the status and progress of the Early Career Researcher (ECR) evaluation. The Board was reminded that they are invited to attend a collaborative workshop involving TAB and Science Board members in early 2018 to explore the evaluation outcomes and provide recommendation to NERC on future support for ECRs.

Any Other Business

TAB commented on the changing funding landscape and the need to identify what skills base UK students and ECRs need to effectively engage with overseas work.