

## Overview

UKCRC welcomes the report of the International Perceptions of the UK Research Base in Information and Communications Technologies (the Report). The Report establishes that the UK ICT community is doing exciting, high quality research across the spectrum of CS and EEE, morale is high, and there is substantial and pervasive knowledge transfer.

Turning to the issues raised, we offer the following comments and support, noting that we consider the funding of PhD students to be paramount.

## PhD students

UKCRC is clear that academic researchers have the capacity and commitment to supervise more, excellent research students, from the UK and abroad; the bottleneck is funding. In all cases, the criterion for selection is research excellence. UKCRC strongly encourages

- a significantly higher level of DTA funding, and that
- EPSRC seek to remove barriers to DTA and project studentship funding for overseas and EU students.

UKCRC notes that there are no barriers to overseas students working in Scotland after graduation (under the Fresh Talent scheme); EPSRC could encourage this scheme to be extended to the whole of UK.

## Collaboration overseas

UKCRC welcomes the opportunity to apply for more collaborative research funding with other nations.

## Pipeline of Students

UKCRC is also concerned about the health of the discipline within schools and the pipeline of students in higher education. UKCRC encourages researchers to raise public understanding of our discipline by engaging with teachers and the general public and motivating young people to study Computer Science. Researchers are encouraged to help schools, and the developers of school curricula, to distinguish between the use of ICT and the academic discipline of Computer Science. The EPSRC Public Engagement scheme has been very helpful and UKCRC encourages researchers to work with EPSRC on this, and other, schemes.

## Impact of ICT research on UK economy

UKCRC welcomes the proposal for a study of the impact of UK Research in ICT. UKCRC encourages EPSRC to initiate such a study and is willing to help prepare a report.

## Acknowledgements

UKCRC would like to thank William Lorensen and the members of the panel for devoting so much time to the review, and for the clarity and insight of their Report.