



University of Cumbria Advancing research through smarter funding intelligence

Background

Advancing research activity through improved funding intelligence.

As part of the University of Cumbria's 2030 Strategy to become a more research-active institution, a key priority for the university was to increase awareness of research funding opportunities and support academics in securing more external funding.

Prior to implementing ResearchConnect, the Research Development Managers (RDMs) faced significant challenges in providing comprehensive and up-to-date funding intelligence. Without a centralised funding database, they had to rely on individual knowledge of funders, manual searches, and newsletters, which made the process fragmented and time-consuming.

According to Anish Kurien, Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the University of Cumbria, the aim in implementing ResearchConnect was to streamline how

funding opportunities were identified and communicated, improve the efficiency of research support services, and ultimately enhance institutional research performance.

Challenge

A fragmented and time-consuming process for identifying funding opportunities

Without a single, trusted source of funding information, the research support team struggled to provide timely and consistent intelligence to academics. Manual processes limited their ability to work proactively, and academic colleagues were not always aware of the full range of opportunities available to them. These challenges made it difficult for the university to progress its goal of increasing research activity and external funding.

“ResearchConnect has enhanced the way we identify, disseminate, and act on funding intelligence. It has empowered our research support team and created efficiencies across the University.”

Anish Kurien,
Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange,



Solution

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Anish notes that the intuitive interface, updated content, and time-saving AI-driven features have been particularly valuable. When a new funding call is identified, the system automatically suggests which academics it may be suitable for based on their publication records, allowing RDMs to make timely and informed recommendations.

He also highlights the high-quality training and ongoing support provided by the ResearchConnect team, with Sarah offering well-received sessions for both the central research support team and academic colleagues. This has resulted in increased engagement with the system and greater awareness of external funding opportunities across the university.

Outcome

ResearchConnect team, with Sarah offering well-received sessions for both the central research support team and academic colleagues.

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