

### ● Benchmarking University Research Support in a Global Context

Through this structured workshop, delegates will explore findings from the ACU's online benchmarking service – the ACU Measures Supporting Research Survey – which has collected institutional data on research support from nearly 100 universities across 29 countries / five continents. This includes information on research management staff, sources of research income, organisational KPIs on research activity, outcomes and impacts, and the provisions, staff trainings, and policies in place to manage research portfolios across the research lifecycle.

Comparative data of this kind is a key resource for university research leaders and their teams. Competitive and impact-focused research has expanded rapidly over the past twenty years, whilst research funding has become increasingly project based, competitive, and accountability requirements more stringent. In response, universities have allocated increasing resource to the pursuing, winning, managing, and reporting on research grants and research-related activities. The types of research support vary hugely – both across the research lifecycle and different institutional, geographical, and regulatory contexts. Alongside the configuration of internal resource, the drivers and enablers of research are both reflective of, and responsive to, those external relationships – with funders, partners, and communities – that comprise an institution's wider research environment. Whilst there is no one-size-fits all approach to research support, university research leaders / teams nevertheless face shared challenges in maintaining and expanding their research base.

This workshop will enable delegates to interrogate the value of benchmarking research support in a global context. Breakout sessions will also explore how comparative data can be used to support research teams in their day-to-day work, and to identify which issues are best evidenced to engage university stakeholders and research funders in the research support agenda.

#### Programme Layout

- Presentation & Q&A (30 minutes)
- Breakout 1: using comparative data to reflect and support university research leaders / teams day-to-day (45 minutes)
- Break (15 minutes)
- Breakout 2: evidencing issues to engage research funders (45 minutes)
- Open discussion: evidencing research support to university audiences (30 minutes)

#### Presenters | Biographies:

##### ● Dr William Bramwell, Association of Commonwealth Universities (United Kingdom)

William leads the ACU's data benchmarking services in key areas of university management, recently overseeing the design of new methods to compare research support structures across ACU member institutions. William is a member of the INORMS Research Evaluation Working Group and sits on other international HE advisory committees. He provides research and data analysis to several operational areas across the ACU, advises on cross-organisational reporting and MEL, and was previously responsible for evaluating the outcomes and development impacts of FCDO-funded international postgraduate research programmes. He holds a History PhD from the University of Warwick.

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