

A change for the better – the University of Aberdeen on switching to RESEARCHconnect



The University of Aberdeen is a public research university in Scotland that focuses on a wide range of research disciplines across its constituent schools.

Here, Dr Andrew Phillips, Business Development Officer supporting the research work of the University, talks through the institution's decision to switch to RESEARCHconnect and the benefits of the service.

What is the importance of research to your institution?

The University has an outstanding history of pioneering discoveries which have changed thinking and practice in medicine, science, arts and humanities over five centuries. We have a truly vibrant and international research community among staff and students, and our research strategy aims to improve Aberdeen's position as a leading research institution.

What were your main reasons for switching to the RESEARCHconnect service?

As our previous provider's funding information service became ever less cost-effective – a great concern when the University has to ensure value for money in all that it does – we decided to seek a new provider. Our ideal provider was one that could deliver timely, accurate funding information, had a keen eye for product development, and offered excellent support before, during and after implementation – all in a way that made good economic sense for us. We expected to have to compromise on these requirements – but with RESEARCHconnect, we found exactly what we were looking for.

Key service benefits

- > **Helps maximise and secure external funding opportunities from pure research to commercialisation**
- > **Supports dissemination and partnership working across faculties and organisations**
- > **Updated in real time – as soon as we know about a new funding opportunity or change, so do you**
- > **Email alerts – automatic updates on saved searches alert users to new or updated funds relevant to their profile**





“That we have such a responsive and dedicated partner in Idox gives us confidence that our decision to invest in RESEARCHconnect is justified.”

After being with our previous provider for some 12 years, we had to ensure any move to a new system was swift, smooth and, most importantly, resulted in gaining an enhanced service. We were highly impressed with Idox’s ready availability to understand our requirements, and so too with their support, which made for a proficient and hassle-free implementation.

Which features of RESEARCHconnect do you find most useful?

The beauty of RESEARCHconnect is that our academics can access the service whenever they require and carry out fast, targeted funding searches in a matter of minutes. The project search tool is clear and simple to use – Idox has clearly invested in getting this right and creating a clean, intuitive user experience.

Our users can easily set up email alerts notifying them of new and updated funding programmes relating to their funding searches. This information is delivered straight to their inboxes immediately on becoming available. With RESEARCHconnect, they have the

confidence of knowing that they will never miss a relevant funding opportunity – which means one less thing to think about in a busy working week.

The University really values the breadth, scope and timeliness of the funding information available through RESEARCHconnect, particularly the Calls and Deadlines feature that forms such a vital part of the service for us. This feature displays valuable information at the touch of a button, ensuring users can quickly assess how programmes fit their project timescales and plan ahead with their applications.

These time-saving and efficiency-improving features are exactly what make the RESEARCHconnect service so essential for our academics and research support staff.

How has RESEARCHconnect supported the University so far?

As well as individual users being able to carry out searches, the service is also used by the research team to identify funding opportunities relevant to wider cohorts of students and, at

the other end of the scale, specialist opportunities for individual projects. We are able to identify relevant programmes and support from a wide range of grants, scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships and more and funding for a broad span of activities, from travel grants and researcher development to knowledge exchange and research commercialisation.

Looking ahead, we will be making increasing use of the Comment and Workgroup tools to help disseminate information across collaborating academic and project teams effectively.

Idox’s support has continued beyond implementation into ensuring we get the best out of the service on an ongoing basis. That we have such a responsive and dedicated partner in Idox gives us confidence that our decision to invest in RESEARCHconnect is justified.

For more information on how your institution can benefit from a new approach to research funding information, please contact us on: 0844 874 0739 or visit www.researchconnect.co.uk

