

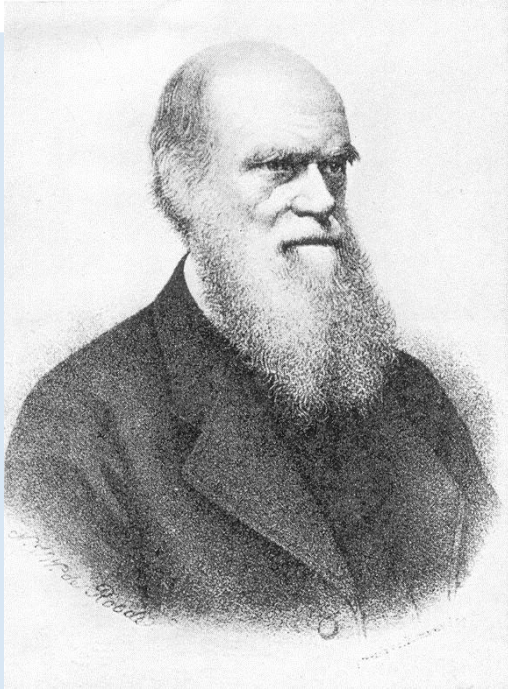


International Research Collaboration

**Dr Claire McNulty
British Council**

GLOBAL EDUCATION DIALOGUES
The East Asia Series
2013-2014

Then - the lone scientist?



Charles Darwin

- Reclusive?
- Working alone for 20 years
- Formulating a theory in the comfort of his study

But

- Observations and correspondence around the world



Now - the collaborative scientists

- Scientists working together from all over the world
- Big data experiments
- Rise of the multi-author paper (3000+!)
- Shared goal breeds collaboration



Science as tool for international collaboration

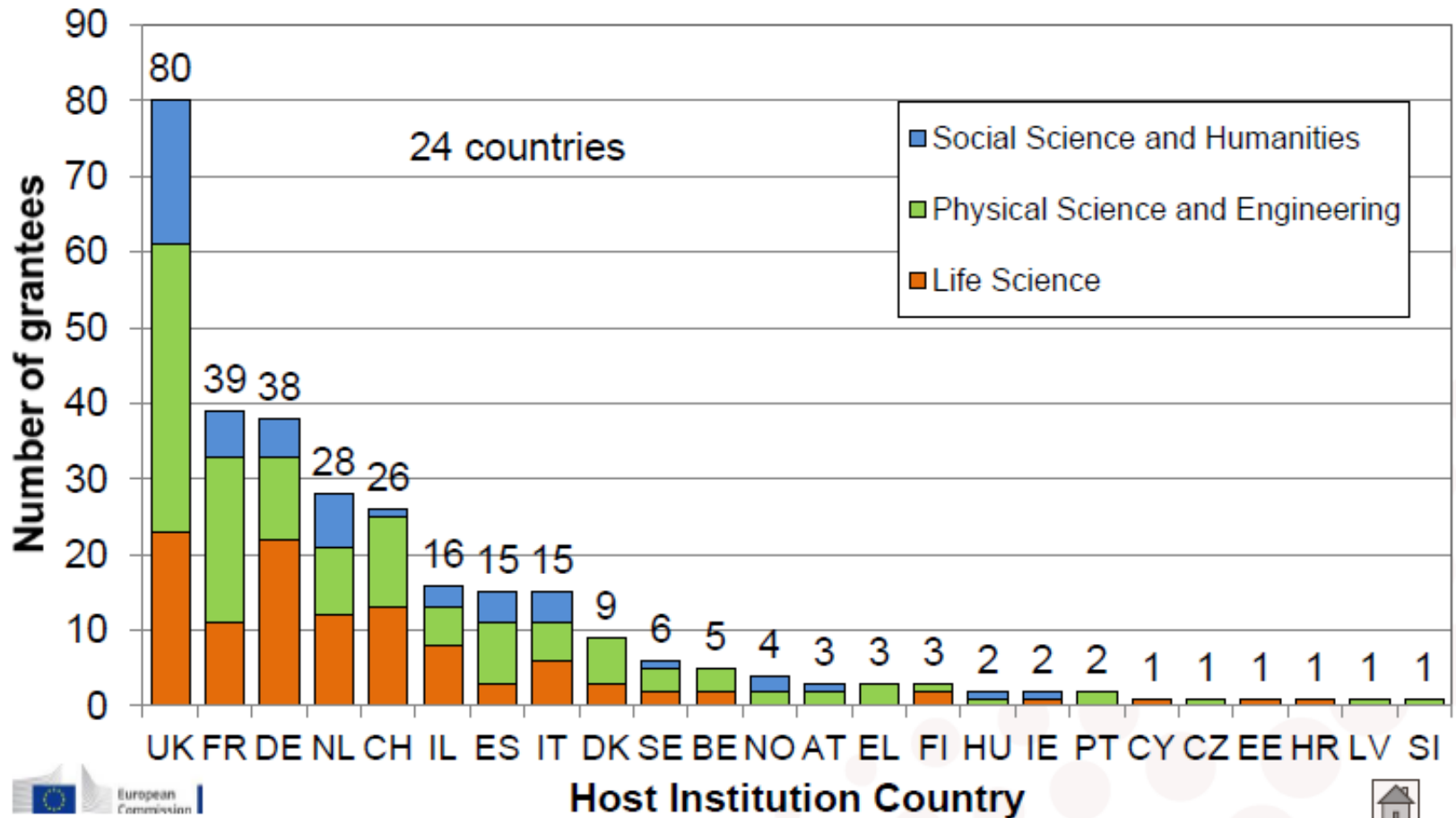
- British Council aim is to build trust and understanding between people in the UK and overseas
- Science is one of UK strengths – therefore a driver for people to engage
- Science is a great hook for collaboration - and a reason to work together across cultural boundaries

UK Research snapshot

- Gross domestic expenditure on R&D in 2011 was \$36.5 billion (£27.4 billion; 1.77% of GDP)
- No. 1 ranking in comparator group in terms of overall quality of research (FWCI) in 2012
- UK has just 0.9% of population but 16% of most highly cited papers (ranking 2nd in comparator group, behind the US)

UK in Europe

European Research Council Advanced Grants – 2012

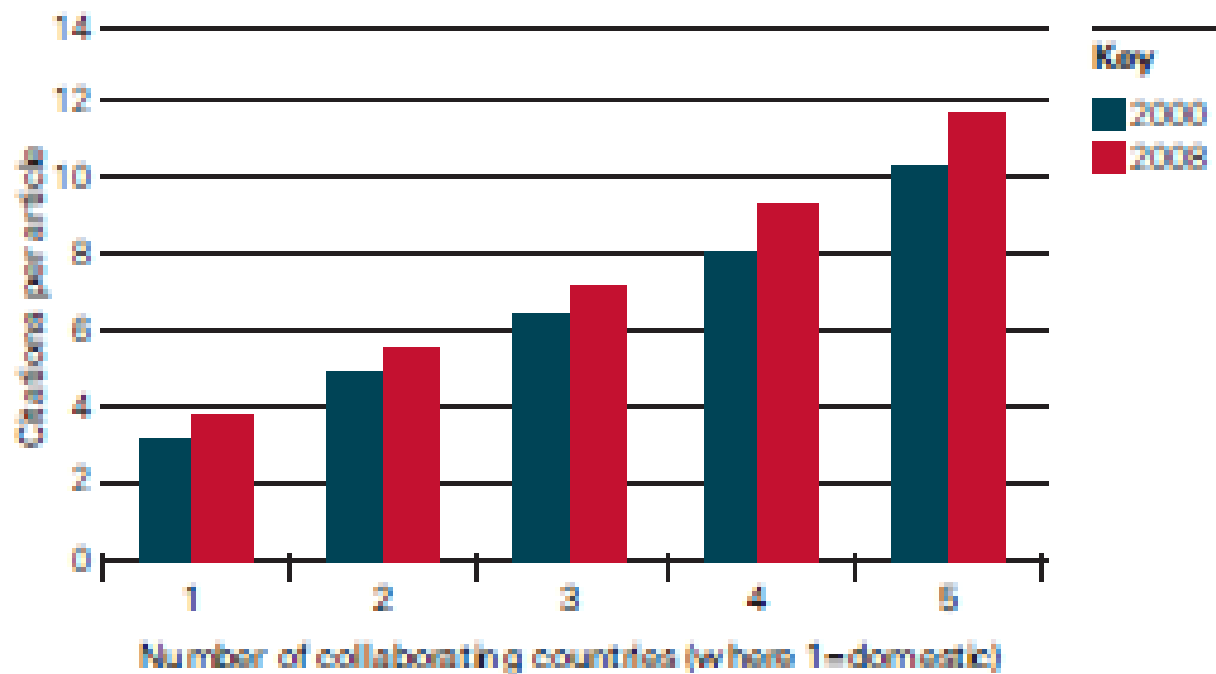


UK research is international

- 31% of all doctoral students in the UK come from outside the EU
- 16% come from other EU countries
- 72% of researchers in the UK were internationally mobile between 1996-2012
- Internationally collaborative research is more highly cited

Citations
increase
with
international
authorship

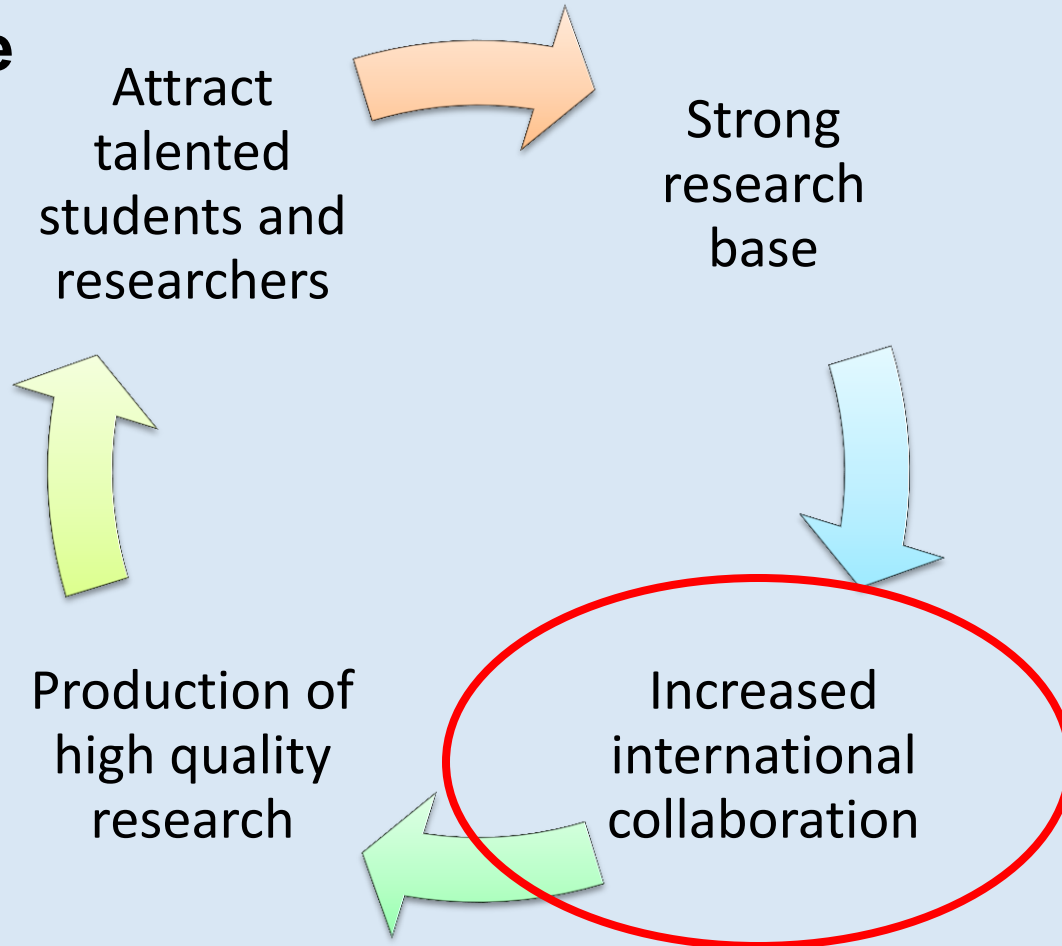
Figure 2.7. Citations per article versus number of collaborating countries.¹⁰⁶



Researchers benefit from mobility

- BIS study of researcher mobility:
 - In Germany and the UK, the most productive groups of researchers had some experience of international mobility
 - Transitory mobility (less than 2 years) occurred in 40% and 44% of researchers in Germany and the UK, respectively, and these groups had a relative productivity of **1.26** and **1.24**, respectively (compared to **1** for all researchers)

Virtuous Circle





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What do researchers need to internationalise?

Information

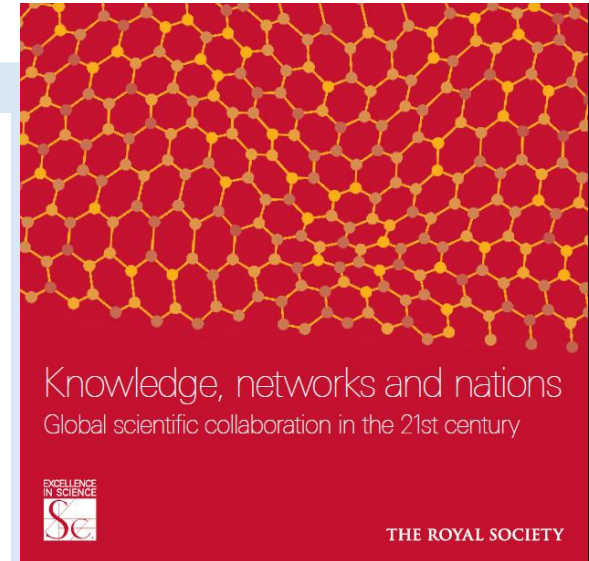
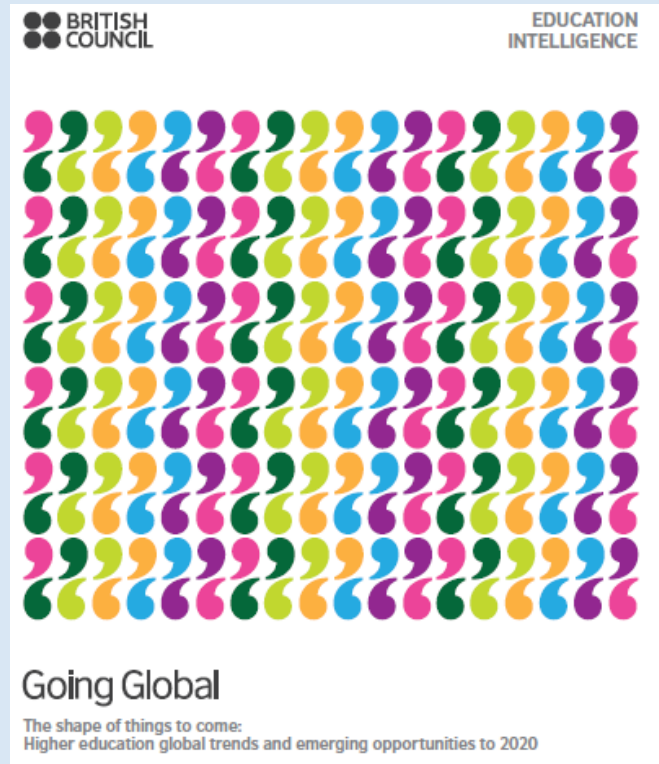
Funding

Practical

Support

Skills

Information



SCIENCEWATCH

Funding - Researcher Links

- Creates opportunities for **early career researchers** from the UK and partner countries to interact, learn from each other and explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations
- Involves **senior researchers to guide** the process, define themes and act as mentors
- Consists of thematic workshops and travel grants
- Open call, with workshop themes/travel grants selected on the basis of **mutual benefit, research quality and potential for sustained interaction**
- Encourage **interdisciplinary interactions** and inclusion of social sciences and arts and humanities researchers

Which target countries?

- **2013/14**
- Brazil, Mexico, Colombia,
- Morocco, Egypt, Qatar,
- South Africa, Nigeria,
- Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan
- Pakistan, Bangladesh
- **Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Vietnam,**

Researcher Links Thailand

- In partnership with Thailand Research Fund (Professor Suthipun Jitpimolmard)
- 19 workshop applications from Thailand, across all areas especially in priority areas: Environmental and biological sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Technology transfer. 7 Successful workshops
- Travel Grants call deadline November 2013; almost 400 applications; 19 applications Thailand –UK; 4 applications UK-Thailand
- New calls to come out in 2014/15

Collaboration development awards

- British Council and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- These awards supported the formation of UK-South East Asia research partnerships
- 37 Collaborative Development Awards have been granted to support research collaborations between UK and SE Asia researchers and policy makers in science and social science areas.
- Total funding c72K
- **New opportunities available in 2014/15**
- Contact: Amita.Chawda@britishcouncil.org.sg

Practical Support

- EURAXESS – support for mobile researchers in 40 European countries
- Euraxess Links in USA, China, Japan, Singapore (for ASEAN) , India, and Brazil





Home



Information on Research landscape in UK, practical info, jobs, careers, funding

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EURAXESS A Initiative



NEW: Researchers get priority under new visa rules. Read more on the Nature blog

Euraxess Newsletter

European RTD Insight: latest

Skills

- Intercultural skills
- Language skills
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Communication skills

RESEARCHER CONNECT

- Communication skills training for researchers
- Face to face, intensive training
 - Writing for publication
 - Writing funding proposals
 - Informal communication (networking, emails etc)
 - Presenting at conferences
- Piloted in India, Egypt, France, Switzerland and China
- Ready to roll out in new countries

The bigger picture.....

- For research to be sustainable and with impact we also need:
 - A strong pipeline of young scientists and engineers
 - Closer engagement between science and society

Science Engagement



Thailand National Science and Technology Fair
Inspiring young people to take up science

Dr Patrick Orr discussing dinosaurs with Thai students through Ping, our t

Researchers from Universities of Bristol and Durham gave demonstrations



Stuart Kearns explaining the exhibit to the Thai Science Minister. Chris Gibson, BC Thailand Director,

Science in Schools

- **Inspiring Science** project in Thailand
 - Curriculum development and capacity building – science teaching resources
 - In partnership with the Thailand Science Institute, Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), Ministry of Education, and the Centre for Science Education, Sheffield Hallam, UK.
 - Funded by BG Group (Thailand)
 - The project has so far reached more than 4,000 teachers and new material, focusing on enquiry-based learning and science in context has been developed and used by more than 45,000 students all over Thailand over the last 2 years

It is the
interconnections, not
the individual
neurons, that make
the brain such a
powerful organ!

