ARMA Conference 2019
Theme and strands

Theme:

New Horizons: Prosperity and Resilience in Research Management

2019 will be a period of change within the research landscape, and we will be navigating uncharted waters. Our 2019 Conference will explore how we thrive and prosper, personally, as a profession, institutionally, nationally and globally.

Strands:

Strand name	What it means
Policy & strategy	An exploration of the policy landscape in which research operates, and the strategies that are developed to address challenges and to take advantage of the emerging opportunities, at departmental, institutional or national level. *Examples of sessions might include*: individual career planning in a challenging environment; how to develop and implement a strategy that works; preparing for REF; working with collaborators and partners; opportunities beyond Brexit.
Funding & development	The funding environment is becoming more complex, and staff – in research offices and academic departments, need more and different levels of information and support to navigate these changes. *Examples of sessions might include:* managing multiple deadlines and priorities; researcher development initiatives; tools and techniques for developing collaborative proposals; diversification of institutional portfolios; national priorities and the impact on funding streams; future opportunities and funding focus.
Project & portfolio management	Managing projects and portfolios effectively has become an increasingly important activity within the research office, and many of our members are being required to develop new knowledge and skills. *Examples of sessions in this strand might include*: case studies on projects that have worked, and those that haven't; assurance and due diligence; stakeholder engagement and project communications; systems and processes for project and portfolio management; project evaluation and the use of metrics; working with partners to build their project management skills; portfolio planning across an institution.

Culture, environment & people	A vibrant and supportive research culture is acknowledged as an essential contributor to the research success of individuals, groups and institutions. This strand explores the role that research office staff can play in building and supporting that environment. *Examples of sessions here might include*: personal resilience and wellbeing; equality, diversity and inclusion; flexibility in the workplace; innovations in workplace wellbeing; contributing to – or creating – a healthy workplace; institutional values; leadership skills to support a healthy research environment.
Impact & public engagement	The research sector increasingly requires public engagement and impact as part of funding and assessment processes (including, but not limited to, the REF). However, it can be challenging for research managers to identify how to facilitate public engagement, and to help plan, deliver and gather evidence of research impact. *Examples of sessions might include* knowledge and skills required to support research engagement and impact; innovative approaches to impact and/ or public engagement; systems and processes to support the collection of evidence of impact and public engagement; overcoming challenges; persuading and influencing; developing healthy institutional approaches to impact.
Governance	Ensuring good research practice and the application of due diligence means that governance is a crucial element of the research environment. This strand should explore how different institutions are responding to governance challenges and opportunities. *Examples of sessions in this strand might include*: understanding research ethics; benefits of different ethics systems and processes; engaging other parts of the institution; engaging with external – and international – partners; GDPR and what that means for research; good governance in decision-making; UK and global approaches to governance.