

Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland

Summary report: Research Incentive Grants

March 2020 Round

1. Submissions and review process

1.1. Summary data

- 127 applications received;
- A single applicant was judged ineligible, consequently 126 were progressed to peer review;
- 64 were subsequently short-listed for panel review;
- 34 awards were made, 17 of these in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and 17 in Science, Engineering and Technology;
- The total amount awarded was £395,583 with an average award value of £11,635.

1.2. Ineligible applications

A single application was deemed ineligible on the basis that the Principal Investigator's fixed term contract of employment ended less than 3 months after the project end date.

1.3. Peer review process

In total, 229 Carnegie Research Assessors contributed to the review process, 129 in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and 100 in the Science, Engineering, and Technology. To supplement existing Assessors, additional reviewers were recruited for this particular round to fill gaps in expertise. These experts were recruited both from the UK and internationally. 120 such *ad hoc* Assessors assisted the Trust during this round of the scheme, 47 in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and 73 in Science, Engineering and Technology.

Assessors were asked to review proposals against the following criteria:¹

- Significance and originality;
- Feasibility;
- Outcomes and outputs;
- Overall quality.

Two Selection Committees were formed to consider the short-listed proposals and the Assessors' reports:

Committee A: Science, Engineering and Technology met online on 15th July 2020, chaired by Prof John Irvine (St Andrews), and including:

Dr Kelly Morrison (Loughborough), Prof Ivan Glesk (Strathclyde), Prof Tony West (Sheffield), Dr Alessio Alexiadis (Birmingham), Prof Rob Poole (Liverpool), Dr Lina Stankovic (Strathclyde), Prof James Taylor (Lancaster), Prof Alan Johnston (Nottingham), Prof Finlay Stuart (Glasgow), Dr

¹ More details on the assessment process and criteria can be found on the Trust website:

<https://www.carnegie-trust.org/schemes/research-schemes/review-process.html>

Peter Barlow (Edinburgh Napier), Dr Ronaldo Ichiyama (Leeds), Dr Fiona Kerr (Glasgow Caledonian).

Supported by Prof Andrew Walker, Dr John Thompson and Dr Patricia Krus, with early career researcher Dr Mattie Pawlowic (Dundee) in attendance as an observer.

Committee B: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences met online on 17th July 2020, chaired by Prof Louise Jackson (Edinburgh) and including:

Dr Alison Cathcart (Stirling), Prof Bernard Harris (Strathclyde), Prof Beverley Searle (Dundee), Prof Christine Caldwell (Stirling), Prof Craig Richardson (Loughborough), Prof Gavin Bremner (Lancaster), Prof Genevieve Warwick (Edinburgh), Dr Jasna Martinovic (Aberdeen), Prof Jochen Clasen (Edinburgh), Prof Kirstein Rummery (Stirling), Prof Melanie Simms (Glasgow), Dr Paul Crosthwaite (Edinburgh), Prof Paul Jackson (Birmingham), Prof Stephanie Donald (Lincoln).

Supported by Dr Patricia Krus, Prof Andrew Walker and Dr John Thompson, with Ms Joanna Pulver (Business Development Manager at University of St Andrews) in attendance as an observer.

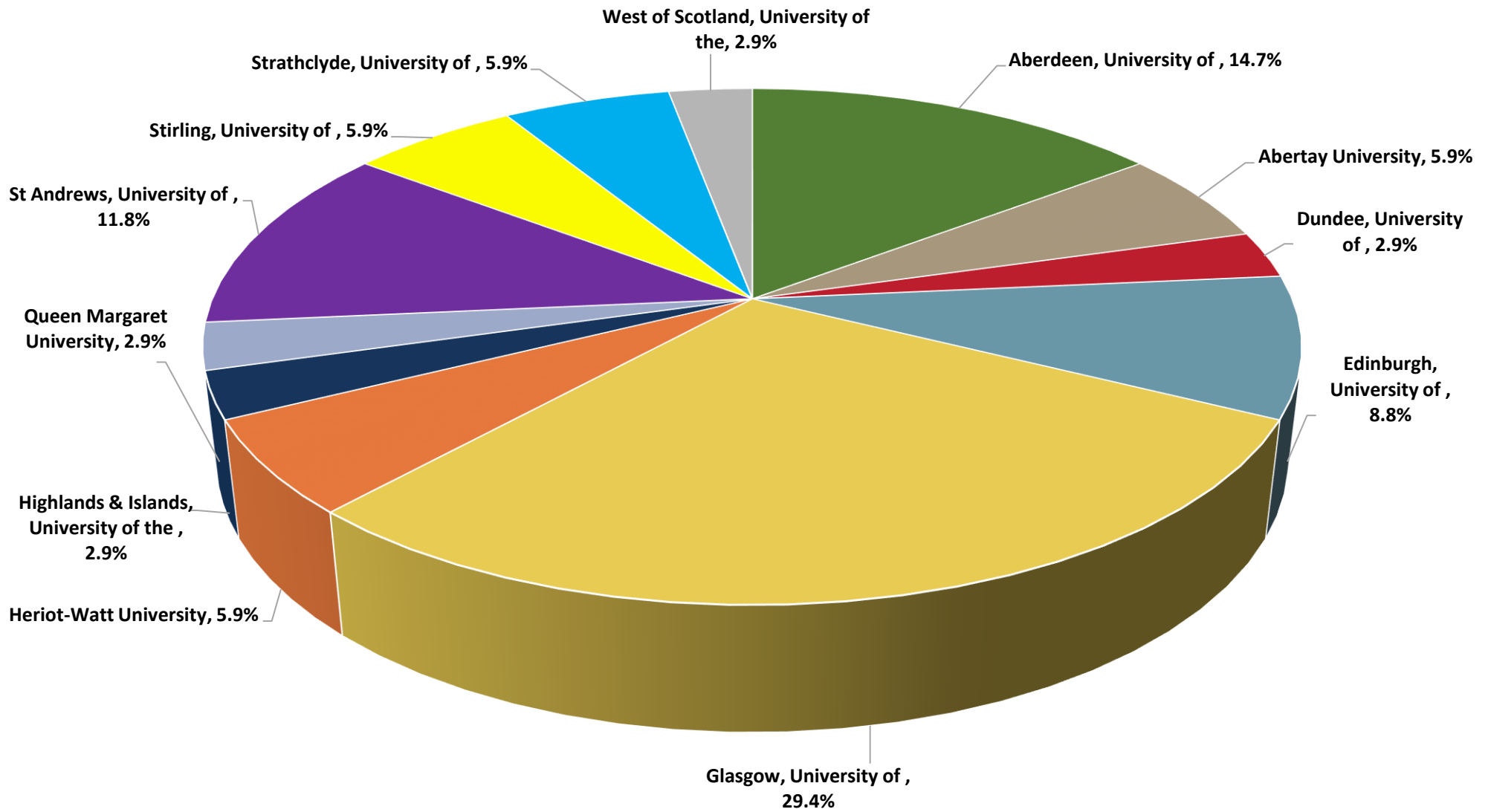
2. Awards and success rate

2.1. Overall success rate

The overall success rate was 27%, excluding ineligible and withdrawn applications. The success rate for March 2020 was markedly lower than for previous rounds, not as a consequence of receiving lower quality proposals but rather due to the economic uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the Trust's income. As a result, the decision was taken to reduce the funding available for this round. The table below shows the numbers of applications received and the awards made by university of affiliation:

University	Applied	Not eligible	Withdrawn	Awarded	Success rate
Abertay University	2	0	0	2	100%
Edinburgh Napier University	6	0	0	0	0%
Glasgow Caledonian University	2	0	0	0	0%
Heriot-Watt University	11	1	0	2	18%
Queen Margaret University	1	0	0	1	100%
Robert Gordon University	2	0	0	0	0%
University of Aberdeen	13	0	0	5	38%
University of Dundee	5	0	0	1	20%
University of Edinburgh	13	0	0	3	23%
University of Glasgow	24	0	0	10	42%
University of St Andrews	11	0	0	4	36%
University of Stirling	12	0	0	2	17%
University of Strathclyde	16	0	0	2	13%
University of the Highlands & Islands	1	0	0	1	100%
University of the West of Scotland	8	0	0	1	13%
Total	127	1	0	34	27%

The following chart displays the proportion of awards by university:



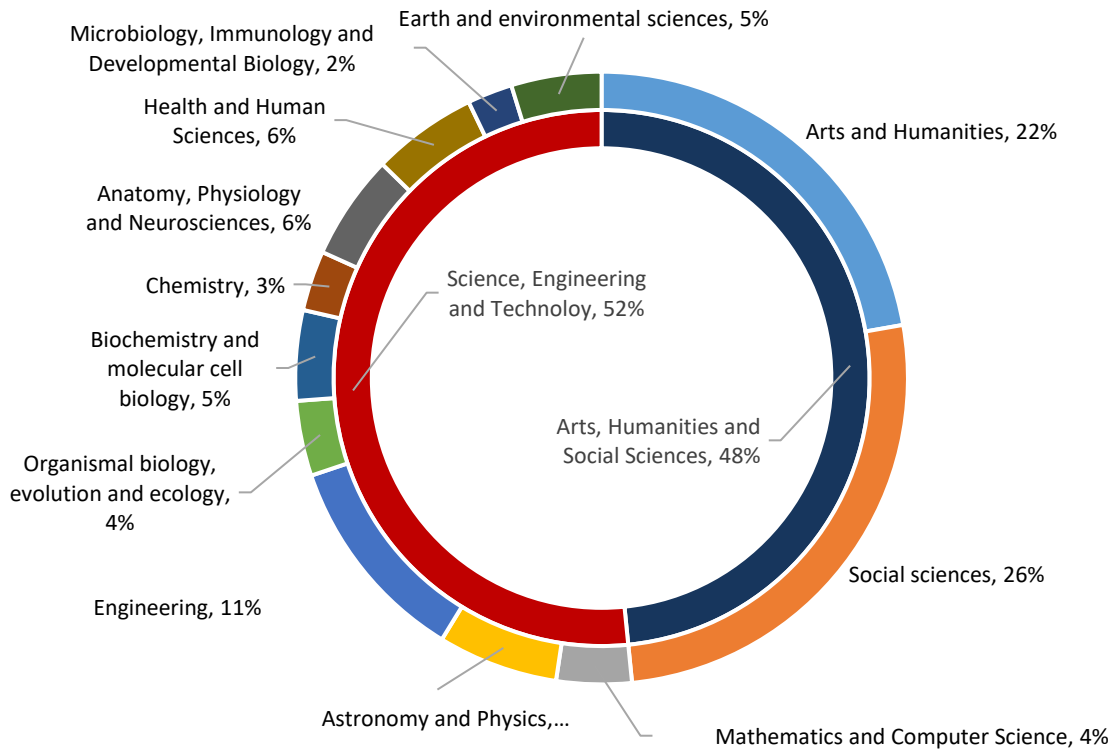
2.2. Success rate by field

The following table provides a breakdown of applications by panel and research area, excluding applications deemed ineligible or withdrawn. The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences research assessors and panel reviewed 61 applications and the Science, Engineering and Technology 65. This round the Arts and Humanities and the Social Sciences attracted a similar number of applications with the Social Sciences slightly higher at 33. Within the Science, Engineering and Technology panel, Engineering attracted the highest number of applications (14) followed by Astronomy & Physics (8).

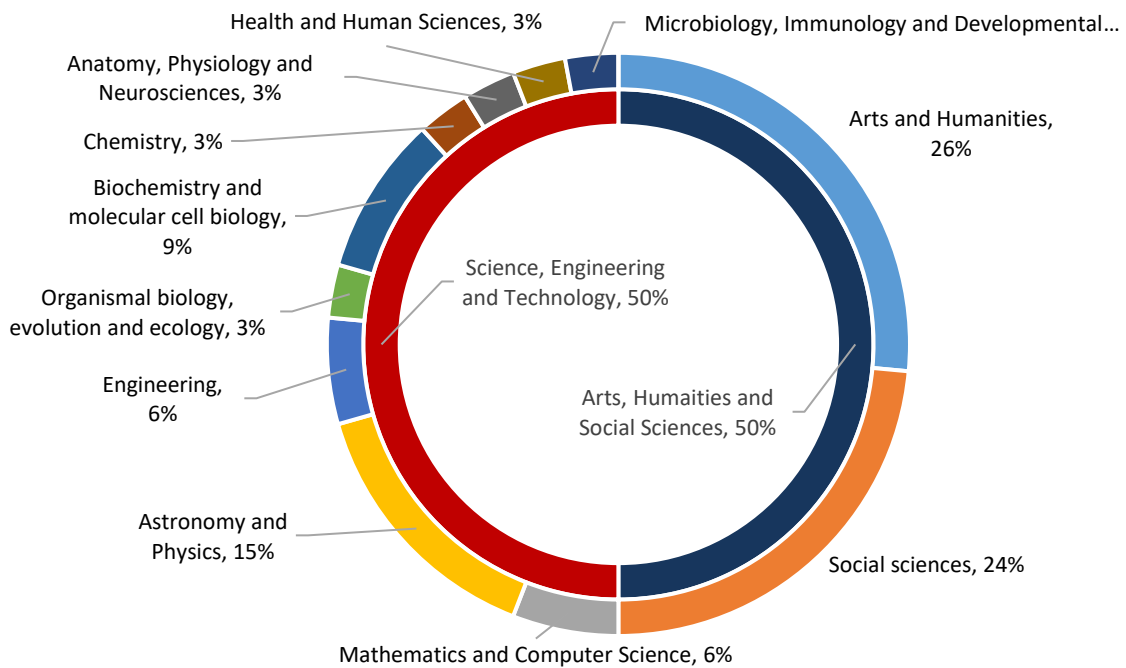
Breakdown by Panel and Research Area	Applied	Awarded
Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	61	17
Arts and Humanities	28	9
Social sciences	33	8
Science, Engineering and Technology	65	17
Mathematics and Computer Science	5	2
Astronomy and Physics	8	5
Engineering	14	2
Organismal biology, evolution and ecology	5	1
Biochemistry and molecular cell biology	6	3
Chemistry	4	1
Anatomy, Physiology and Neurosciences	7	1
Health and Human Sciences	7	1
Microbiology, Immunology and Developmental Biology	3	1
Earth and environmental sciences	6	0
Grand Total	126	34

The doughnut charts below display the percentage of applications and awards by panel and research area, excluding applications deemed ineligible or withdrawn. The inner ring displays the percentage of applications by panel while the outer ring shows the percentage of applications by research area. Research areas are shown on the outside of their respective panel.

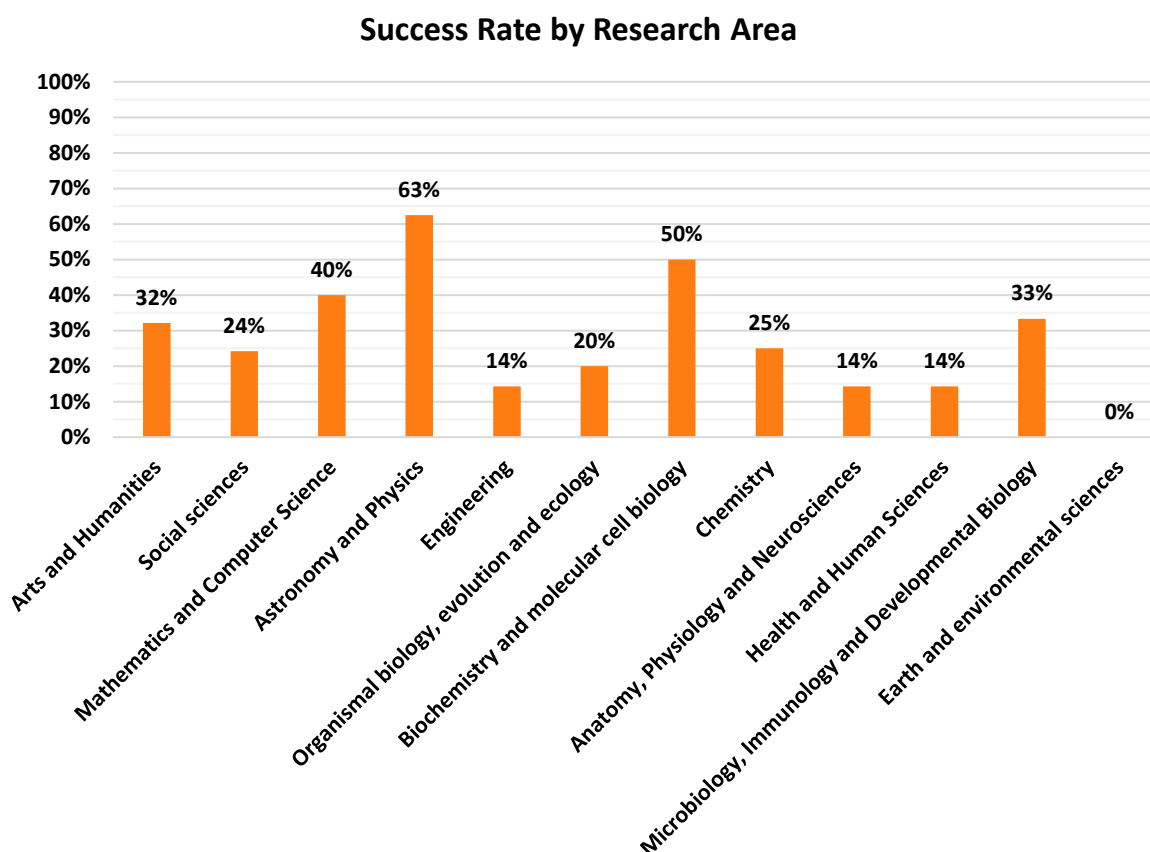
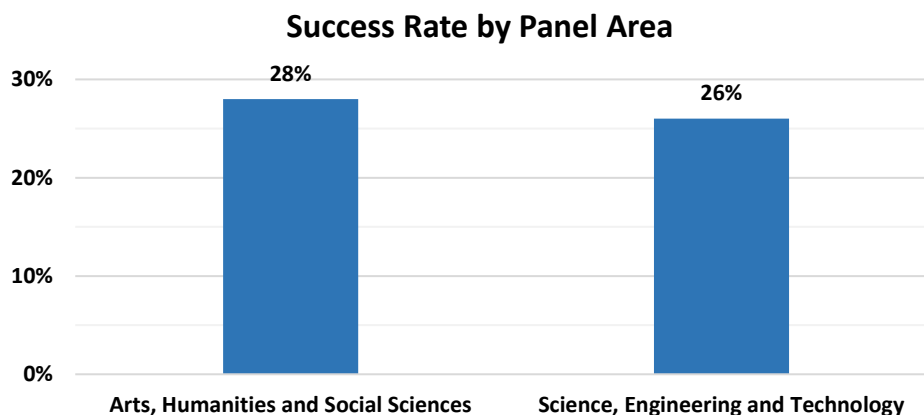
Applications by Panel and Research Area



Awards by Panel and Research Area



The following charts display the success rate by panel and by research area, excluding applications deemed ineligible or withdrawn.

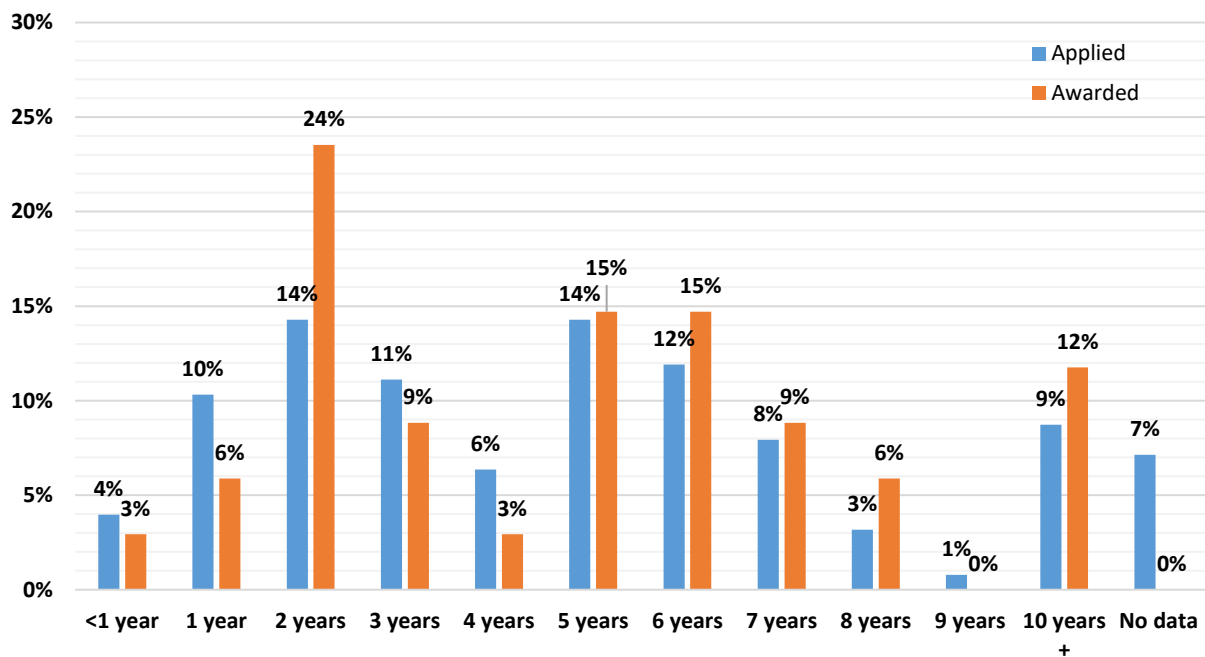


2.3. Success rate by career stage

NOTE: As part of their application, applicants are requested to state the length of their research career, regardless of whether they considered themselves to be independent researchers or not during that time. As a consequence, the number of years stated may differ from the Trust’s definition of an Early Career Researcher as an individual who is within 7 years of commencing independent research.

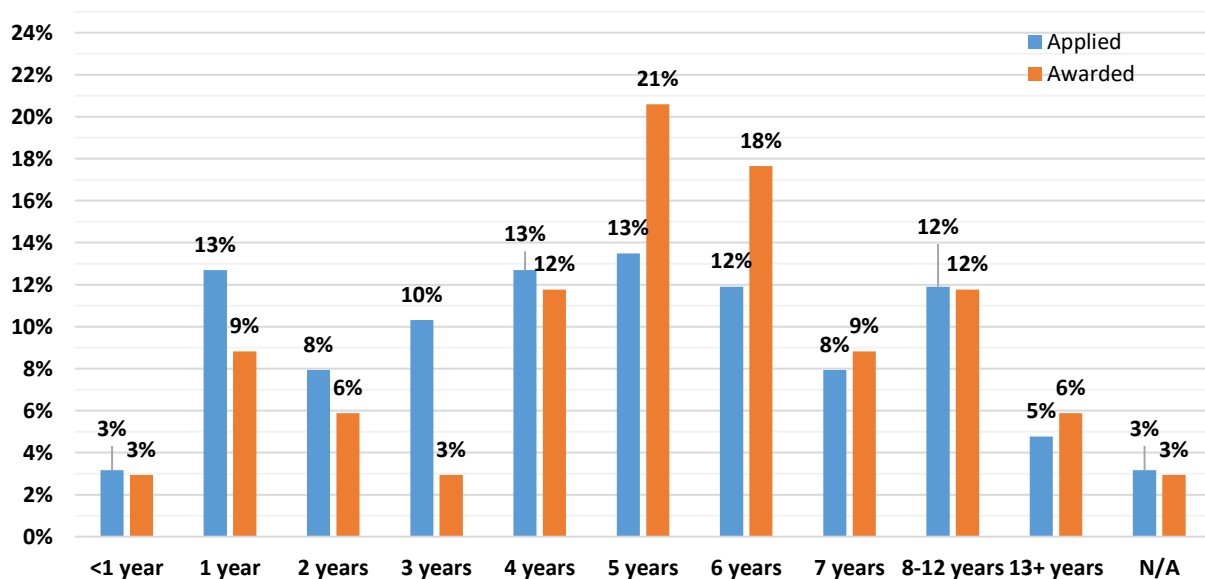
The most successful career stage, with 24 per cent of awards, were applicants two years into their academic career who only comprised 14 per cent of applicants. This was followed by academics with five and six years' experience respectively each representing 15 per cent of the awards. The least successful group were those applicants who opted to provide no information on their career stage who received no awards, despite comprising 7 per cent of applicants. This data excludes applicants deemed ineligible or who withdrew their application.

Applied/Awarded by Years into Academic Career



The largest proportion of awards (21%) were made to applicants who received their PhD 5 years ago, despite this group comprising only 13 per cent of applicants. This data excludes applicants deemed ineligible or who withdrew their application.

Applied/Awarded by Years Since PhD Graduation



3. Scoring and Funding Cut-off

Carnegie Research Assessors are asked to score each proposal against 4 criteria on a scale of 0 to 6. During this round any proposal with an average score of 4.84 and above for SET and 4.73 and above for AHSS were short-listed, along with any proposals for which only one initial assessment was returned, or where the assessor scores diverged by 3 or more points. Each short-listed proposal was sent to two members of the relevant Selection Committee who each provided comments and an additional score. The Committee scores were then collated to create a preliminary ranking which formed the basis for discussion during the two panel meetings with particular focus on those proposals located around the likely funding cut-off points. From these meetings final ranked lists for each panel area were generated. A final decision on the awards to be made was reached by the two Selection Committee Chairs, in concert with the Trust’s Secretary & Treasurer and Trust Manager, on the basis of the numbers and relative strengths of the applications from both areas as well as the available budget.

For this round, the funding cut off was 5.25 for SET applications and 4.85 for AHSS applications.

For each university, the spread of scores as concluded by the Assessors and the Committees (grouped in bands) is illustrated by the chart below:

Band A - Average score: 6

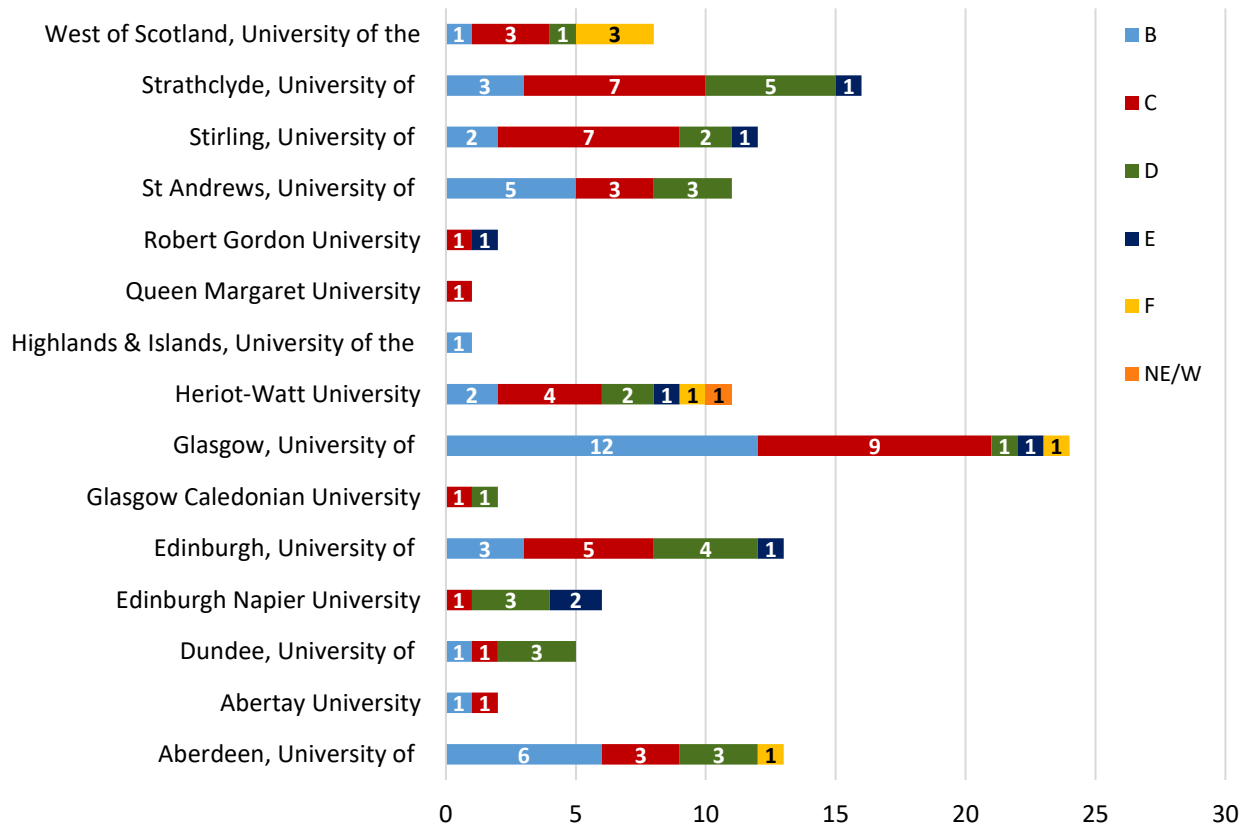
Band B - Average score: 5 to 5.99

Band C - Average score: 4 to 4.99

Band D - Average score: 3 to 3.99

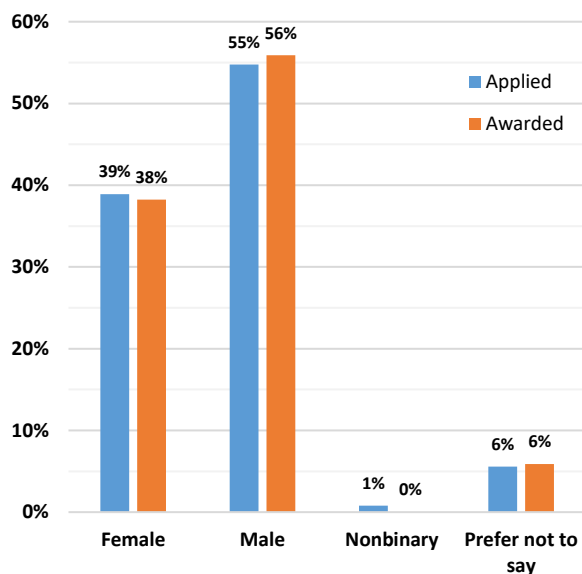
Band E - Average score: 2 to 2.99

Band F - Average score: 1 to 1.99

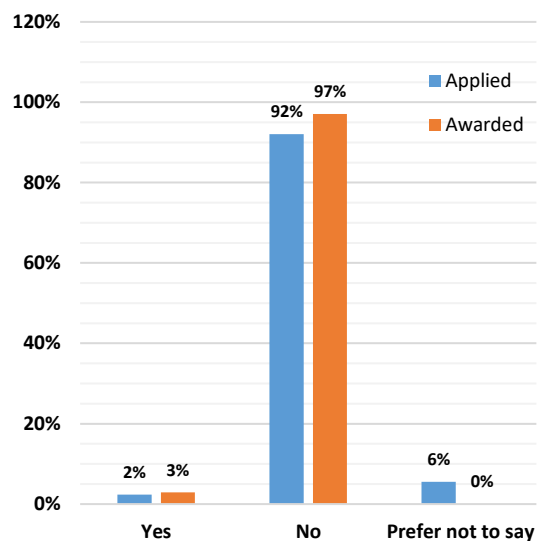


4. Equal opportunities

Gender



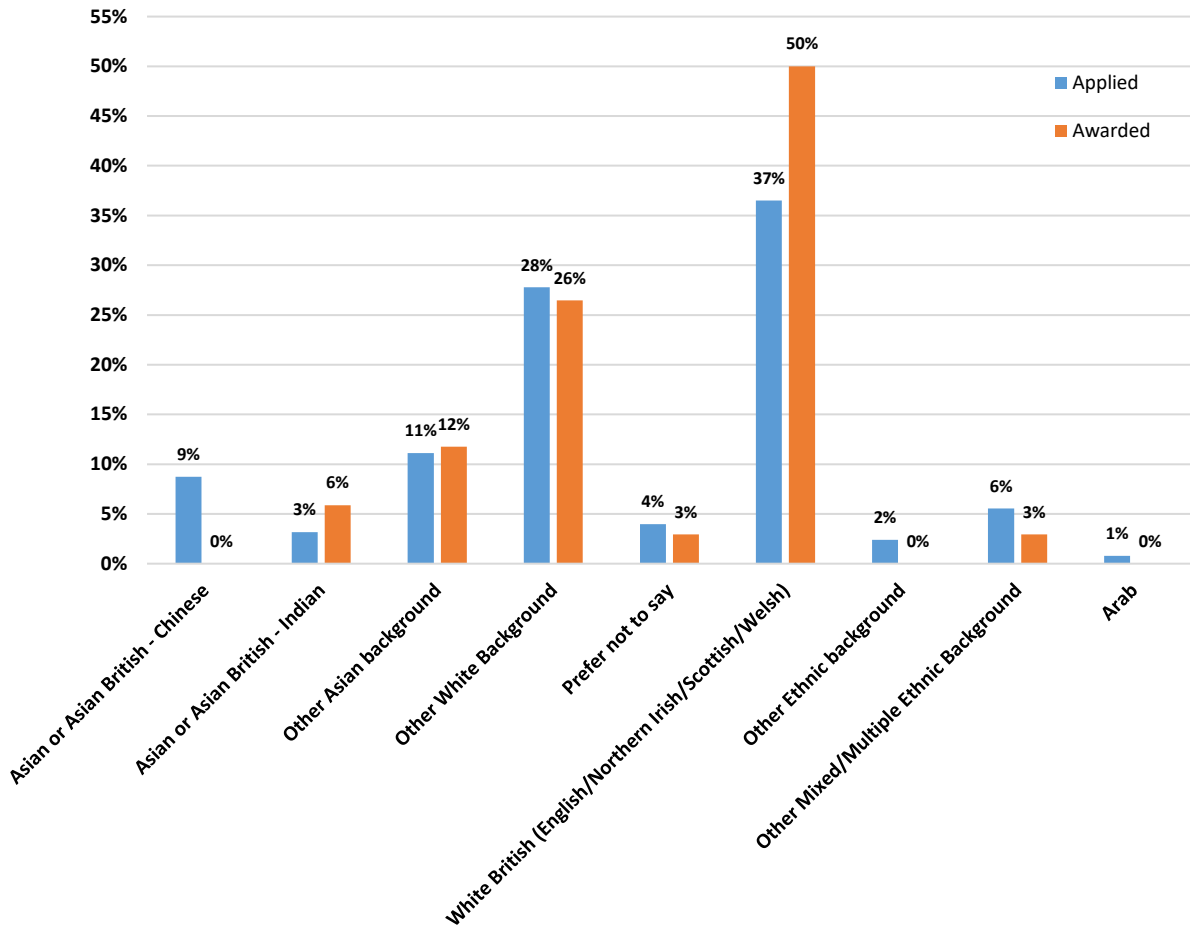
Disability



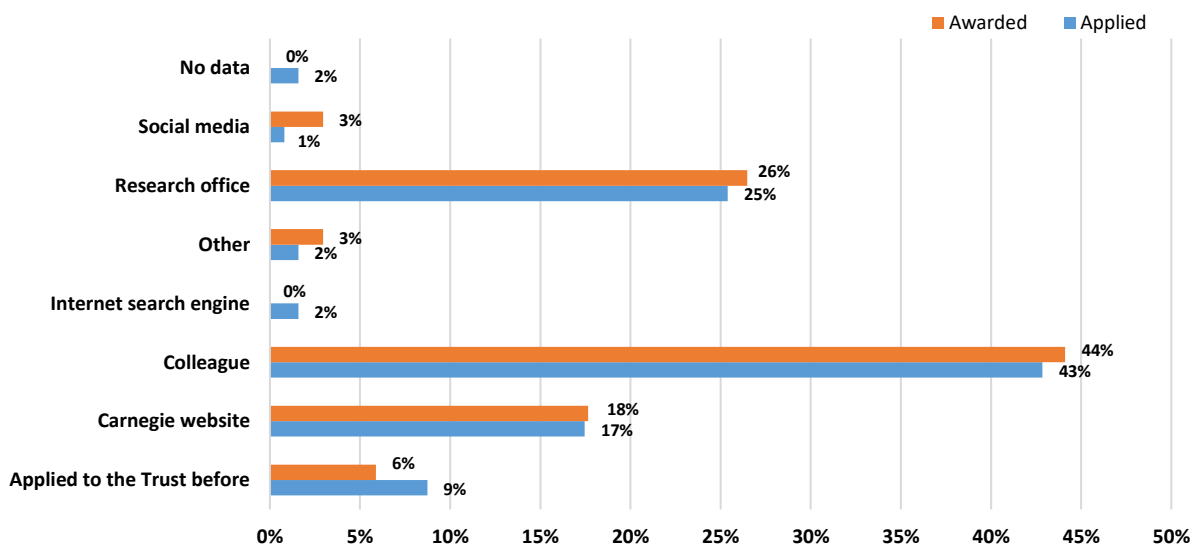
With regard to the percentage of applications and awards (by gender) this fluctuates between rounds but seldom by more than 10%. Female researchers consistently make up the minority of applicants, although this proportion has only dropped below 45% once over four rounds (39% for March 2020) the percentage of male applicants however has never exceeded 55% (this discrepancy can be explained by the higher proportion of applicants who opted not to share their gender during the March 2020 round). By averaging the percentages, it can be seen that while female applicants submit fewer applications, they outperformed their male counterparts with regard to success rate.

	Female		Male	
	Applied	Awarded	Applied	Awarded
September 2018	46%	50%	53%	48%
March 2019	48%	43%	49%	49%
September 2019	45%	53%	54%	47%
March 2020	39%	38%	55%	56%
	45%	46%	53%	50%

Ethnicity



Scheme Source



5. List of Awardees

Prefix	First Name	Surname	Project Title	University	Amount
Dr	Dimitrios	Anagnostakis	NATO-EU cooperation on countering hybrid threats	University of Aberdeen	£7,045
Dr	Sourit	Bhattacharya	Representing the 1943 Bengal Famine: Colonialism, Food Crisis, Culture	University of Glasgow	£14,981
Dr	Gavin	Craig	Cooperative molecules to enhance gas separation membranes	University of Strathclyde	£6,360
Dr	Hannah	Donnelly	Engineered microenvironments to support CRISPR-edited HSCs <i>in vitro</i> .	University of Glasgow	£12,760
Dr	Edward	Dove IV	Ethics review in Scottish universities: how can we do better?	University of Edinburgh	£11,435
Dr	Marcello	Ferrera	Zero-Index Metasurfaces (ZIM)	Heriot-Watt University	£15,000
Dr	Adam	Fletcher	Profiling the intracellular immune response to SARS-CoV-2	University of Dundee	£5,815
Dr	Mandy	Haggith	The Liminal Zone: A Metaphor for the Interface between Teaching and Creative Practice	University of Highlands & Islands	£14,282
Dr	Clare	Harding	Iron storage in <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> : the role of VIT1	University of Glasgow	£13,700
Dr	Rebecca	Harrison	Props, Petroleum and Soft Power: Star Wars and the Military Industrial Complex	University of Glasgow	£14,892
Dr	Gordon	Hedley	Engineering Efficient Energy Flow in Lanthanide Complexes using Single Molecule Spectroscopy	University of Glasgow	£15,000
Dr	Greti-Iulia	Ivana	Settlement or Continued Trajectories of Migration - The case of Young Highly Skilled Europeans in Scotland and Germany	University of Glasgow	£7,600
Dr	Darshana	Jayemanne	Regulation and Freedom: An International Perspective on Youth Safeguarding in Online Games	Abertay University	£4,521
Dr	David	Johnson	Not in my Job Description: Academic Research Contracting as Positive Entrepreneurial Deviance	University of Glasgow	£14,966
Dr	Neil	Kirk	"MIND Your Language": Are Scots speakers cognitively more similar to monolinguals or bilinguals?	Abertay University	£14,659
Dr	Marika	Knowles	Paperwork and Identity in Edgar Degas's 'Bureau Pictures'	University of St Andrews	£8,235
Dr	Ioannis	Konstas	Fact-Accurate Automatic News Summarisation	Heriot-Watt University	£14,417
Dr	Takashi	Kubota	Understanding transcriptional regulation of the CDR1 drug efflux pump gene in the multidrug-resistant pathogen <i>Candida auris</i>	University of Aberdeen	£14,959

Dr	Nadanai	Laohakunakorn	Closed-loop cyber-physical interface for optimal cell-free experiments	University of Edinburgh	£13,900
Dr	Alan	Law	Rewilding landscapes: can beaver-created heterogeneity influence landscape biodiversity and alter connectivity?	University of Stirling	£11,341
Dr	Wen-shin	Lee	Advancing exponential analysis: high resolution information from sparse and regularly sampled data	University of Stirling	£14,994
Dr	Philippa	Lovatt	Southeast Asian responses to environmental crisis: A comparative study of moving image practices in Hanoi and Chiang Mai	University of St Andrews	£8,657
Dr	Mauro	Manassi	Serial Dependence and Awareness	University of Aberdeen	£12,002
Dr	Carl	Nelson	Neuromorphic Microscopes for Ultra Fast Volumetric Imaging	University of Glasgow	£14,901
Dr	Emma	Newlands	Fighting for Life: British male military medics in the Second World War	University of Strathclyde	£6,600
Dr	Ian	Paterson	Building bridges, not walls? The role of NGOs in contesting the security-migration nexus	University of Glasgow	£3,392
Dr	Emilia	Pietka-Nykaza	Rural Living and Place Making among Migrant and Non-Migrant communities in Scotland.	University of the West of Scotland	£13,696
Dr	Katherine	Rae	Redefining the Optical Communications Laser Diode	University of Glasgow	£12,846
Dr	Sai Kiran	Rajendran	Tailored Rydberg Superatoms through Quantum Confinement	University of St Andrews	£14,988
Dr	Joost	Rommers	Eye-tracking the memory consequences of the predictive mind	University of Aberdeen	£6,612
Dr	Simon	Sharples	Deciphering spinal circuit components for the control of breathing	University of St Andrews	£14,016
Dr	Ana	Tominc	Representing food in UK media during the Brexit campaign: Policy, regulation and national food myths	Queen Margaret University	£14,270
Dr	Ignacio	Tudela-Montes	Novel gas diffusion electrodes for the electrochemical utilisation of CO ₂	University of Edinburgh	£14,951
Dr	Jennifer	Walklate	Documentary Ethnographies	University of Aberdeen	£7,790

Note: Due to the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic on the Trust's income, the decision was taken to temporarily suspend this scheme for the September 2020 round, with the March 2021 round under review.

John Thompson, October 2020