

Promoting Open and Reproducible Research at the University of Exeter



Marina Vabistsevits, Gavin Buckingham, Gareth Cole, Eilis Hannon, Mark Kelson

Why Open Research?

Open and reproducible research strengthens the quality, transparency, and impact of research. By making research processes more accessible and reliable, it enables others to verify, reuse, and build upon scientific discoveries.

- Improved research quality
- Greater transparency and trust
- More collaboration and reuse
- Better impact for science and society

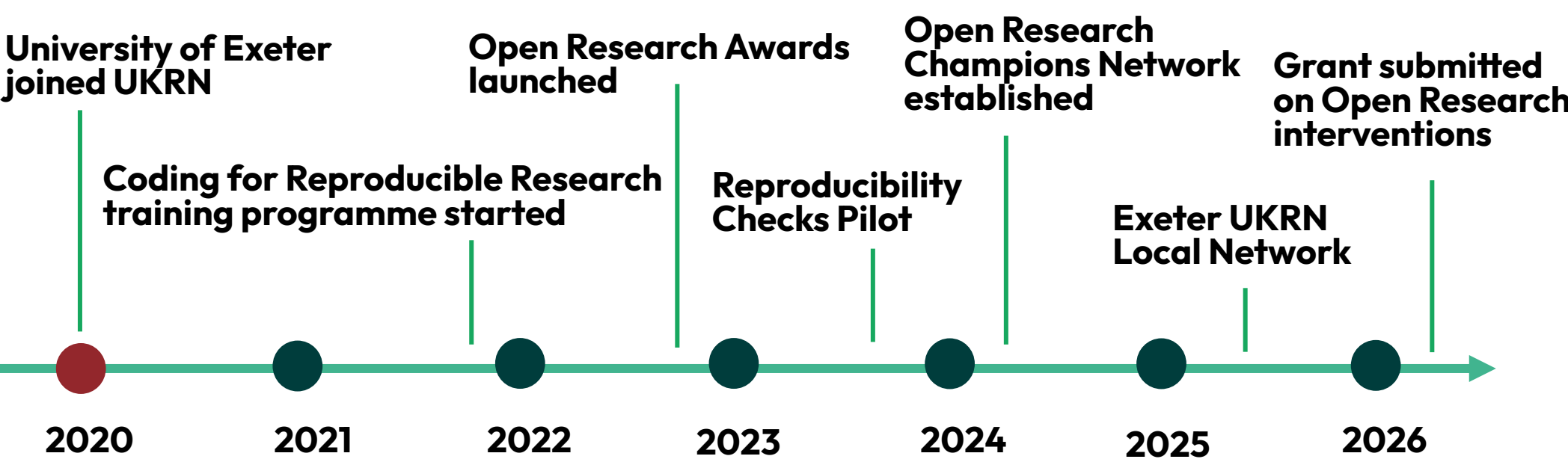
The **UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN)** is a national peer-led consortium working to improve research quality by fostering open and reproducible research through community building, training and institutional change.



Open Research Milestones at Exeter

The University of Exeter joined UKRN in 2020 by making a formal commitment to uphold the UKRN objectives of promoting rigorous and responsible research within the University and across collaborations.

UKRN initiatives are actively supported by the University's senior leadership, enabling us to build an engaged community committed to open and reproducible research.



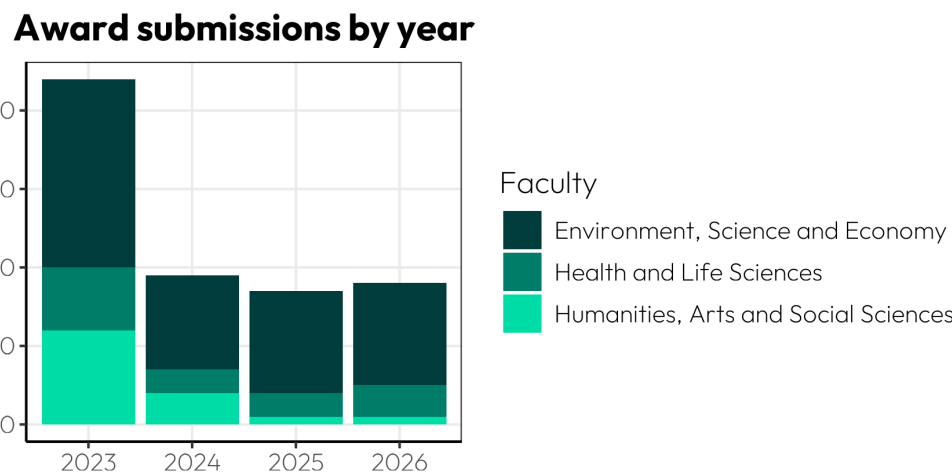
Open Research Awards

Celebrating Excellence in Open & Reproducible Research

The **University of Exeter Open Research Awards** showcase and reward the very best of student-led open research practices across all departments and faculties.

The Awards Ceremony is a full-day event with talks and discussions, which attracts strong engagement across the University and is a great way to promote UKRN objectives.

The Open Research Awards took place for the **4th year** in 2025/26.



The projects span a wide range of disciplines and approaches while demonstrating a shared commitment to transparency, accessibility, reproducibility and collaboration.

- One winner is selected from each faculty, alongside an overall runner-up.
- The judging panel is made up of last year's winners, drawing on their own experience and expertise in open research practice.

Initiatives and Contributions

Contributing to UKRN outputs:
- **Computational Reproducibility Primer**
- **Open Research Indicators Pilot**

UKRN Exeter team has been invited to contribute to **panel discussions on reproducibility** at Exeter-based conferences, and host a Reproducibility table at a **Research & Innovation Strategy 2026-2031 Launch** with the University senior management

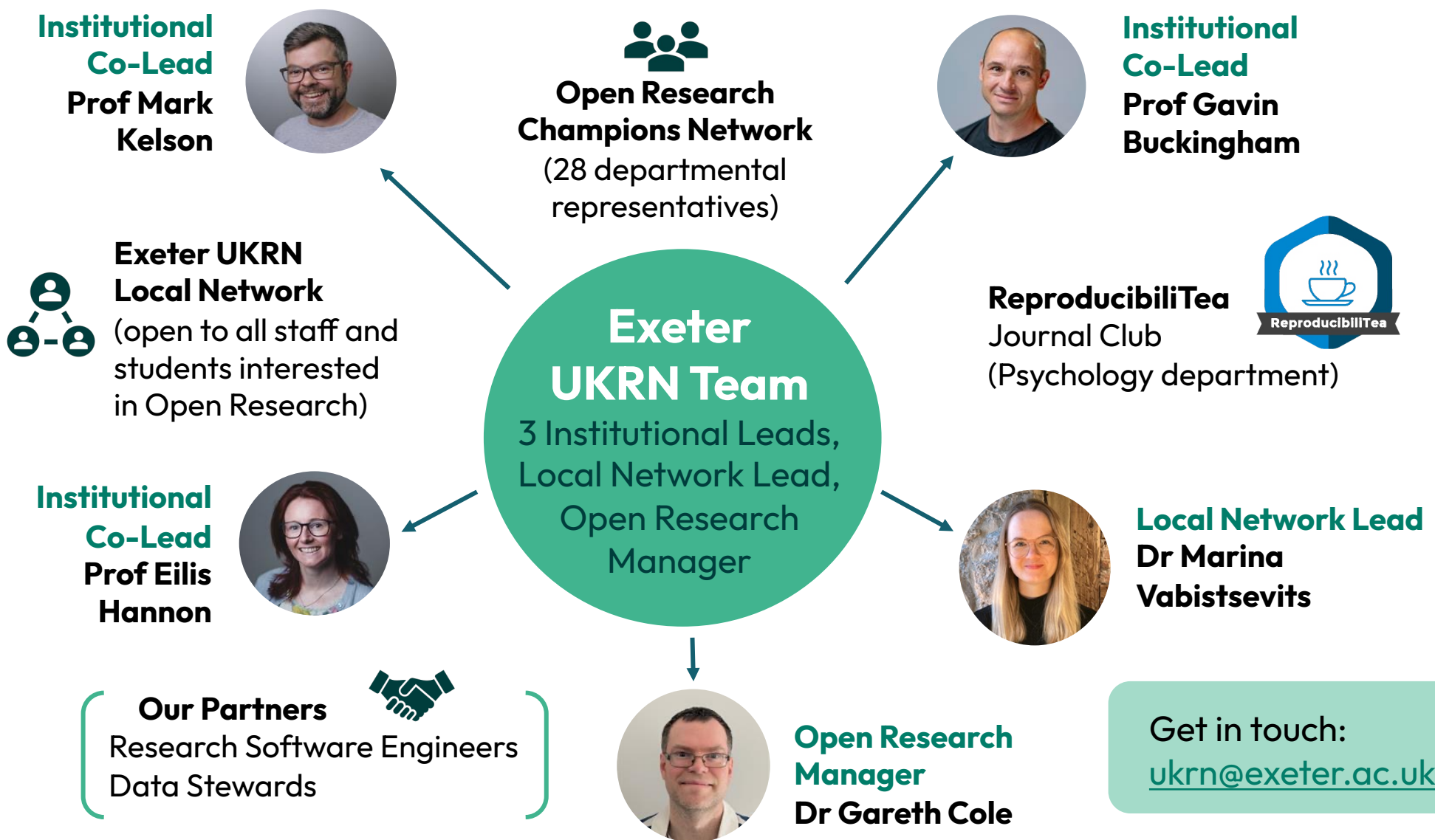
We developed a meta-science **funding bid** with colleagues from other UKRN institutions, aiming to deliver and evaluate an **Open Research intervention** for incoming PhD students

We will be assisting senior leadership with identifying **impact case studies for REF** from departments' Strategy, People and Research Environment statements through finding gaps or areas of best practice

Our impact at glance



Open Research Ecosystem at Exeter



Open Research Champions Network

The **Open Research Champions Network** includes **28** open research-engaged representatives ("champions") from most departments at the University.

The network serves as a key mechanism to highlight open research best practices across different disciplines, and to cascade relevant opportunities and new initiatives in departments and faculties.

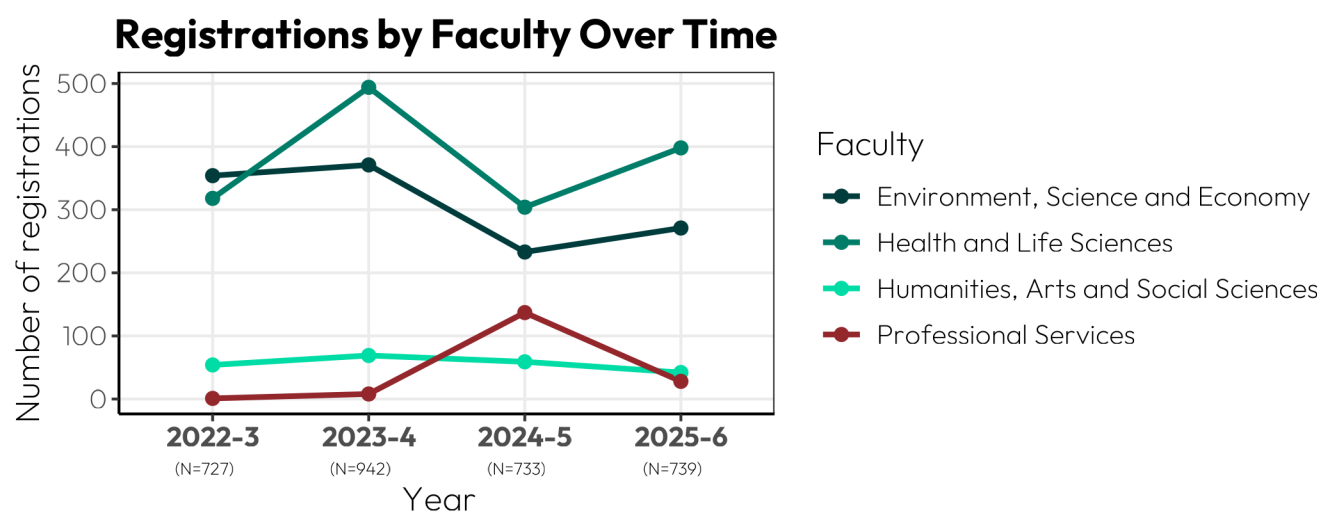


Training and Skills Development

Coding for Reproducible Research (CfRR) training programme

CfRR training programme, established by Prof Eilis Hannon, offers an annual series of workshops for staff and students, supporting colleagues to develop coding skills and confidently undertake technical aspects of their research, such as data processing and analysis, in an efficient and reproducible manner.

CfRR offers **22** different workshops, attracting **3,100** registrations since its inception, demonstrating sustained demand in reproducibility-focused training.



CfRR offers hands-on courses in-person and online, supplemented by freely available self-study materials, on programming and data science, including guidance on good practice and reproducibility, providing opportunities for novices through to experts to further their skills.



CfRR website: coding-for-reproducible-research.github.io/
Get in touch: codingforreproducibleresearch@exeter.ac.uk

Committed to the Future

The University of Exeter has committed to becoming a paid member of UKRN under the new UKRN strategy, as we highly value being part of this community.

Moving forward, we aim to expand engagement across disciplines by building a sustainable institutional culture of open and reproducible research through training, intervention initiatives, and community-building.

