

SUPA II - Scottish Universities Physics Alliance

POOL	SUPA II - Scottish Universities Physics Alliance		
Original Partners	Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews and Strathclyde, UWS Aberdeen and Dundee joining the original SUPA I partners		
Funding	SFC £15.7M Institutions £31.9M		
Start	2009/10	End	2015/16
Original objectives			
To build on successes of SUPA I, establish a KT directorate, increase Prize studentships to 15pa, enhanced PG training, creation of Strategic Research Initiatives which will cross the research theme boundaries, additional research theme of Physics and the Life Sciences (PaLS), and expanded International Visitor Programme.			
Inclusivity policy	All physics departments included		

Funding breakdown

<i>These figures are taken from the proposal submitted in June 2008</i>			
	SFC (£000s)	Institution (£000s)	Total (£000s)
Salaries			12,800
6 x Chairs			
2 x Professor			
2 x Director buy out			
10 x Lecturers			
19 x Advanced Fellows			
3 x Fellow buy out			
2 x Post Doc			
4 x Reader			
5 x Research Assistant			
1 x Electrical Engineer			
5 x Technicians			
Studentships (15pa x 4yrs 60)			5,000
Graduate school (including Graduate School Director)			1,579
Directorate			1,651
Equipment			26,460
Total			47,600

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Governance / structure

Original Governance	Board of Governance International Advisory Board Executive Committee Research Strategy Group Research Management Group Graduate School Management Group Knowledge Transfer Committee
Research themes	Six themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astronomy and Space Physics (ASTR) • Condensed Matter and Materials Physics (CMMP) • Nuclear and Plasma Physics (NPP) • Particle Physics (PPH) • Photonics (PHOT) • Physics and Life Sciences (PaLS) Five new Strategic Research Initiatives cut across the themes (funding is based around the SRIs plus PaLS which wasn't funded in the first phase) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUPA Large Hadron Collider – the search for the Higgs Boson and new physics • Astrolead – Scottish leadership of key international astronomy programmes • Picoscience – Scottish leadership in condensed matter and material physics • SCAPA – the Scottish Centre for the Application of Plasma-based Accelerators • QIP – Quantum insights from Photonics
Directorate	CEO Director of Graduate School Clerical x 3 Director of KT Business Development Manager Secretarial

End of award

Final report	LINK January 20xx
Highlights	<p>Critical mass: All academic posts filled and to be maintained by institutions</p> <p>Facilities: delivered and now maintained by the institutions and attracting further funding</p> <p>Research Quality improved RAE/REF performance, from no 5* in 2001 to competing with the 'big 4' with independent endorsement coming from the REF2014/Main Panel B Overview Report stating: "There was increasing evidence for pooling of resources in regional groupings, as pioneered during the period of RAE2008 by the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA). SUPA has gone from strength to strength...".</p> <p>Graduate school is very active, incorporating all 600 students of Physics and some allied. All physics students in the 8 partner HEIs are required to attend 40 hours of advanced physics lectures and 20 hours of generic skills in their first two years.</p>
Major changes/challenges	Introduced new Energy theme working closely with ETP. Plans for KT were amended following developments in the landscape including development of ICs, Catapult Centres etc. Re-focussed on providing enterprise

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	opportunities for graduates.
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SUPA Continuation Funding

Partners	Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews and Strathclyde, UWS Aberdeen and Dundee		
Funding	SFC £562,500 (over 5 yrs) Institutions over £1M		
Start	2017	End	2022

Funding breakdown

	Total (£000s)pa
Staff costs (Directorate)	£186.5k
Activities (Graduate school, annual gathering, travel, planning for REF,	£126k
Total	£312.5

Governance	Board of Director International Advisory Board Executive Committee Graduate School Committee Focus group
Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive (0.5 FTE) • GS/KT Coordinator • CEO/GS Secretarial/Admin Support • IT support (0.5 FTE)

Highlights from AY2017/18 annual report [LINK](#)

‘SUPA is the largest cluster of physics research in the UK with higher combined research income, numbers of research staff and research students and ‘research impact’ than Oxford, Cambridge, ICL or UCL.’

‘Among a number of spin out successes from SUPA partners, an exemplar of innovation and industry cooperation in 2017/18 is the Aurora microscope, developed by M Squared and U.St Andrews, leading to an EPSRC Prosperity Partnership Grant, directly enabling the creation of a new venture, M2 Life, employing 8 researchers, and recognised nationally with an IoP Business Innovation Award’ SUPA launched an initiative addressing relatively low success with the InnovateUK and ISCF calls. A with SULSA and SINAPSE resulted in SFC Leverage funding to stimulate more ambitious collaborative applications to challenge funds (e.g. ISCF, SIPF and European calls).

The SUPA Executive Committee approved an additional activity in 2017-18 which was not included in the original SUPA Continued Development proposal to SFC. This is the “SUPA Education” initiative in which SUPA is using its network to help school teachers in delivering the Curriculum of Excellence. SUPA partners universities have contributed a total additional contribution of £17k to support this activity; there is no additional SFC contribution for this activity. The spend on this initiative will take place within the 2017-2022 timescale of the SUPA Continuation Grant, mostly in 2018/19 but may

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carry over to the following financial years.