



BUILDING A WORLD CLASS SOCIAL
SCIENCE RESEARCH BASE IN
QUANTITATIVE METHODS

a national strategy



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WHY A STRATEGY?

There is a widely acknowledged deficit in the supply of highly-trained quantitative researchers across the UK social science community. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is working with the Funding Councils and other agencies to develop a national strategy that can tackle these skills shortages.

The strategy will help to ensure that the UK:

- Commands a world class social science research base in advanced quantitative methods
- Sustains its top two international ranking in social scientific research
- Maintains global leadership in research methods
- Continues to have an in-depth research base to meet the demands of the wide range of policymakers.

STRATEGY

Aims of the strategy:

- 1 To create a comprehensive and coordinated training framework in quantitative methods *at each level* of the educational life course:
 - Schools – work with the Research Councils UK and affiliated bodies to expand mathematical skills
 - Undergraduate level – increase teaching to improve the supply of quantitatively literate students for postgraduate studies
 - Postgraduate – increase uptake and application of quantitative methods, through enhanced stipends
 - Mid-career – encourage researchers and those who teach quantitative methods to deepen or refresh their skills.
- 2 To integrate training *across each level* to create a coherent multilayered national training infrastructure.
- 3 To create a flexible framework to meet the skill requirements of individual researchers.

CURRENT INVESTMENTS IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS

Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) – Edinburgh
www.aqmen.ac.uk

The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research (CCSR) – Manchester
www.ccsr.ac.uk

Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) – Cardiff
www.cardiff.ac.uk/wiserd/index.html

Learning Environment for Multilevel Methodology and Applications (LEMMA II) (NCRM node) – Bristol
www.cmm.bristol.ac.uk/research/Lemma/2.shtml

National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM hub) – Southampton
www.ncrm.ac.uk

Courses in Applied Social Surveys (CASS) – Southampton
www.s3ri.soton.ac.uk/cass

SIMIAN: Simulation Innovation: A Node (NCRM node) – Surrey
www.simian.ac.uk

The Lancaster-Warwick-Stirling Node: Developing Statistical Modelling in the Social Sciences Phase 2 (NCRM node) – Lancaster
www.maths.lancs.ac.uk/ncrm

Understanding Population Trends and Processes (UPTAP) – Leeds
www.uptap.net

Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) Institute of Education – London
www.cls.ioe.ac.uk

Survey Resources Network (SRN) – Essex
www.surveynet.ac.uk

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) – Essex
www.esds.ac.uk

The Researcher Development Initiative (RDI). Multiple projects at various locations
www.rdi.ac.uk

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

We will:

- Develop a quantitative methods strategy at undergraduate level
- Deepen generic quantitative methods requirements at postgraduate level
- Create a portfolio of advanced training opportunities in quantitative methods
- Concentrate capacity building in quantitative methods and training around centres of excellence
- Introduce high quality on-line training resources to support distance learning
- Develop UK-wide regional and national training centres
- Ensure the delivery of activities through other existing training infrastructures such as those provided by Vitae network and Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Administrative Data – Methods, Inference and Network (ADMIN) (NCRM node) – Institute of Education – London
www.ioe.ac.uk/research/I16083.html

Bayesian Methods for Integrated Bias Modelling and Analysis of Multiple Data Sources in Observational Studies (BIAS II) (NCRM node) – Imperial College – London
www.bias-project.org.uk

Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (cemmap) – London
www.cemmap.ac.uk