

European Crucible 2021:

Creating a New Scottish-European Network of Research Leaders

Funded by Scottish Government under the title
“International Engagement - Scoping New Research Opportunities”

RIS members involved:

SUPA on behalf of ETP, MASTS, SAGES, ScotCHEM, SICSA, SINAPSE, SRPE, SULSA, Soillse

European Crucible 2021 Directors:

Prof Alan Miller, SUPA CEO

Dr Ruth Neiland, Head of Research Futures Academy, Heriot-Watt University

Prof Stéphane Bordas, Professor in Computational Mechanics, U. Luxembourg

Aim:

The aim of the European Crucible initiative is to create a pan-European network of future research leaders and arm them with the contacts, knowledge and abilities to create ambitious multi-disciplinary, multi-country research collaborations with the potential to attract major funding.

The Crucible Model:

This first European Crucible was organised online in collaboration with the University of Luxembourg, and brought together 25 high potential early / mid-career researchers working in Scottish universities and research institutes with 25 equivalents from across Europe. The selected participants spanned the life, physical, mathematical, computational, environmental and social sciences as well as engineering, arts and humanities.

The Scotland cohort are located in 12 Scottish universities and research institutes:

Universities of Abertay, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews, Stirling, Strathclyde, Open University and at the Research Institutes of James Hutton, SAMS and NHS Tayside. See: <https://scottishcrucible.org.uk/european-crucible/scottish-cohort/>

The Europe cohort are employees of research organisations in 12 countries: Belgium, Czech Rep, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland. See: <https://scottishcrucible.org.uk/european-crucible/european-cohort/>

Participants' home institutions:



Interactive Crucible ‘Labs’ included inspirational presentations from leaders in academia, business, research funders and funding support organisations in Scotland, UK and Europe.

Knowledge about each other’s research specialisations and interests were built up over six Labs, culminating in the creation of multi-disciplinary research teams and pitching of ideas to an expert panel to create new collaborative research projects incorporating their breadth of knowledge and expertise.



Following the final Lab, participants were invited to bid for ‘seed funding’ for multi-disciplinary, multi-institution, multi-country research projects to be undertaken over the next 15 months.

Seven projects selected for seed funding include medical, health, environment, social, legal and technology topics. These allow teams to conduct initial investigations and experiments ahead of developing larger applications for funding. The expectation is that the creation of this network will lead to further ideas for collaborative research on longer timescales.

For further information contact European Crucible co-Directors:

Professor Alan Miller, CEO of SUPA: alan.miller@SUPA.ac.uk

Dr Ruth Neiland, Head of the Research Futures Academy (HWU): r.neiland@hw.ac.uk

Website: www.scottishcrucible.org.uk/european-crucible/