

PSYCHOLOGY

Nationally the discipline of psychology is in an extremely healthy state, and its research quality bears comparison with the best in the world. The South West is very well represented in this discipline, with departments having particular strengths in applied cognition and cognitive neuroscience and social, economic, clinical and health psychology. Postgraduate demand is very strong. The RAE 2001 panel for Psychology noted that there remains a continuing need to develop skilled researchers in these fields; the OST RCs and charities fund seven times as many research studentships in biological and other medical sciences as in Psychology.

Regional relevance

The bid will substantially increase the number of PhD students in applied cognition, neuroscience, social, economic, clinical and health psychology across the South West. Its real impact will be considerably more than this, however. It will allow the institutions together to make a real step-change in training in these areas.

Sustainability will derive from an increasing likelihood of gaining further Research Council and Charity funding for research training (MRC, ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, Wellcome, Leverhulme) and project grant funding (with associated studentships), increasing numbers synergistically. This, in turn, will provide access to training at a regional level, and allow the SW HEIs to compete with the best internationally as trainers in postgraduate research in psychology.

Notes

The Theme Panel have stipulated that at least one academic investigator on each research project (studentships and fellowships) is a psychologist by training as defined by being eligible for membership of the British Psychological Society.