

## Questions and Answers

### What is a Regius professorship?

Regius Professorships are professorships that have been created when a university chair is founded or endowed by a Royal patron. Historically, they were limited to a handful of the 'ancient' universities of the United Kingdom and Ireland but with the most recent Regius Professorships, created to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the range of universities with a Regius chair has expanded reflecting the growing excellence of the UK's research base.

The creation of Regius Professorships falls under the Royal Prerogative, and each appointment is approved by the Monarch on ministerial advice.

### Who awards Regius Professorships?

Her Majesty The Queen under the Royal Prerogative, acting on advice of Ministers. In this special case, Ministers will be acting on the guidance of a panel of eminent academics and experts. Details of the panel will be announced shortly.

### Does a Regius Professorship confer any powers, functions, rights or honours?

The Regius Professorship is purely an honour bestowed by The Queen to recognise excellence.

### Is there a bursary?

No, there is no funding attached to the conferment.

### How does a university attain a Regius Professorship in this case?

Universities have until 14 December 2015 to submit an application setting out in no more than 1000 words, (approximately 2 pages) including footnotes and endnotes, why they believe that one of their departments should receive the exceptional honour of a Regius Professorship.

### What are the criteria?

Submissions will be judged against a scoring system based on the criteria, with greatest weight given:

- a. National & international recognition of excellent research across any field or fields of research, (1-15 points);
- b. The leading role of the university in translating the research into use in wider society as a contribution to knowledge, or to solving a problem (1-15 points);
- c. A direct and significant benefit to the UK's economic effectiveness and productivity at a regional or national scale (1-15 points); and
- d. Other factors, such as the chance to mark a significant event in history of the institution or field of research (1-5 points).

### Why have the criteria changed from those used for the previous award of Regius Professors?

The size and quality of the UK's research base has grown dramatically during the reign of HM The Queen. The research and knowledge that has resulted underpins the UK's economic strength and has significantly improved the lives of people in the UK and beyond.

These criteria recognise the excellent research from across this expanded university base that has had the greatest benefit for the UK.

**What is meant by benefit?**

The benefit, supported by evidence, should be improvement in the UK's economic effectiveness and productivity at a regional or national scale. Whilst this obviously includes all areas of business and the economy, it also includes activity in other areas that can demonstrate a link between excellent research and economic benefit and improved productivity; for example, health and well-being, the environment, social policy, cultural endeavour or the international standing of the UK.

**Does the benefit have to occur in the UK?**

The benefit does not have to be exclusive to the UK, but should include a significant UK component.

**What areas of research are eligible?**

Any field of research undertaken by the university is eligible, including research that encompasses more than one field or discipline.

**Can anyone from an institution apply for a Regius Professorship?**

No, applications must come from the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor of the University.

**Can institutions submit bids for a joint chair?**

In recognition of the fact that research is often most effective when it stems from a collaborative endeavour, bids for joint chairs will be considered. Where institutions have a successful track record of working together, as judged against the criteria, then there can be a single application submitted jointly by the institutions. Where a joint application is successful, a single Regius Professorship will be created, which may be based at either institution. Where 'university' is used within this guidance and Q&A, it should be taken to mean 'universities' as appropriate.

**Are there any restrictions as to which institutions can apply for a Regius Professorship?**

All institutions with the power to grant a degree may apply.

**Are applications open to the Commonwealth?**

No, applications are limited to the United Kingdom.

**How many universities will be granted a Regius Professorship?**

Up to twelve Regius Professorships will be awarded. Ultimately the number awarded will depend on the strength of the applications.

**Who is responsible for advising The Queen?**

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, assisted by Minister for Constitutional Reform, John Penrose MP.

**Will the devolved administrations be involved?**

Regius professorships are a reserved matter throughout the UK and therefore remain the responsibility of UK Government Ministers.

**When will the result of the applications be announced?**

The results of the competition will be announced in the New Year.