

## UCML AGM

King's College London



### Plenary 30 June 2017

#### Report from Vice-Chair (Research)

I have attended two meetings since my last report, the AHRC Advisory Group for Modern Languages which met in Senate House on 24 May and the IMLR Advisory Board which met at the same location on 13 June. At the first meeting Janice Carruthers, AHRC Fellow for Modern Languages, presented two sets of statistics showing the success levels for our discipline in AHRC schemes. They tell two separate stories: ML applicants do disproportionately well with respect to research grants, in all schemes and irrespective of the applicants' experience; in contrast, the ML share of doctoral studentships within the various doctoral training partnerships has been low and is showing strong signs of declining further. The first message from Janice's findings is that we should be encouraged to apply to the AHRC for grants because our chances of success are good. The second is that those fortunate to benefit from DTP membership should assist applicants in whatever way they can. This is because the only explanation for the growing disparity between ML and other branches of the arts and humanities is that applications from our students are less impressive. (Personal note: Yes, but we are doing two things: teaching them the language as well as the discipline, whereas they are just teaching the discipline.) The AHRC will not impose or encourage quotas. The AHRC does not accept responsibility for some institutions not finding themselves in DTP's at all.

Julian Preece

21 June 2017