

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
(via email: [privateoffice@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:privateoffice@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk))

11 May 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

I was delighted when you declared your ambition for the UK to become a science superpower, underlining that ambition with significant long-term investment. The Russell Group wants to work with the Government to deliver on this goal.

To do so, the UK must be a global player, able to collaborate on research and innovation with the best minds across the world; we believe association to Horizon Europe is an integral part of that.

Association would do more than underline our status as a science superpower that others want to work with - it would bring clear benefits to the UK. Under its previous iteration the UK won 1,500 prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grants, more than 2,000 individual businesses participated and, overall, the programme facilitated over 31,000 collaborative research links between the UK and countries around the world. Indeed, Russell Group universities alone won over 1,400 ERC grants worth €1.8bn, more than the whole of France.

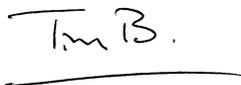
However, the UK's association has not been formalised, preventing us from fully participating in what is considered to be the *Champions League* for research, and collaborating with our most trusted allies, which is particularly important given current concerns over the influence of hostile state actors. Failure to associate would also hinder our ability to recruit and retain some of the best talent, expertise and investment.

In recent months, we have seen first-hand how international partnership and collaboration are critical to succeed in the face of environmental, health and geopolitical challenges. The UK is at its most successful when working alongside our partners on the global stage. More importantly, our allies and partners in Europe – and across the world – have seen how effective the UK's leadership has been, leading the way at COP26, on the response to Covid and in our unwavering support for the people of Ukraine.

The UK is now at a crucial point for association. I would therefore urge you to make a personal intervention to break the deadlock, get the deal over the line on behalf of the research community, and unlock the enormous benefits to the UK that Horizon Europe will bring.

We stand ready to support you in this endeavour in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tim Bradshaw  
Chief Executive, Russell Group

The Russell Group of Universities  
One Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AA  
T +44 (0)20 3816 1300  
[russellgroup.ac.uk](http://russellgroup.ac.uk)

## RUSSELL

University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge  
Cardiff University  
Durham University  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
Imperial College London  
King's College London  
University of Leeds  
University of Liverpool  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science  
University of Manchester  
Newcastle University  
University of Nottingham  
University of Oxford  
Queen Mary University of London  
Queen's University Belfast  
University of Sheffield  
University of Southampton  
University College London  
University of Warwick  
University of York

## GROUP