

SICSA

POOL	SICSA - Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance		
Original Partners	University of Aberdeen, University of Abertay, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, Heriot-Watt University, Robert Gordon University, University of St Andrews, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde.		
Funding	£14.5M SFC £14.5M institutions		
Start	2008/09	End	2014/15
Original objectives			
The goal of the Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) is to sustain and expand Scotland's research excellence in Informatics and Computer Science (ICS). It will exploit and enhance the research capabilities and reputation of the world-leading Scottish universities to promote an international presence in this research field.			
Inclusivity policy	While an important part of the membership of SICSA was drawn from the three 5/5* institutions which already had an international reputation for their research in ICS the proposal recognised internationally-excellent individuals and groups at all participating institutions. SICSA aimed to select and nurture world-class activities from across the whole Scottish ICS base, and to increase awareness of the quality of other activities across the base. A person or group would be eligible to join as a full member so long as their inclusion makes a positive contribution to the overall research excellence of SICSA.		

Funding breakdown

	SFC (£000s)	Institution (£000s)	Total (£000s)
Salaries 5 chairs 10 readers 15 lecturers 7 advanced fellowships	9,815	9,815	19,630
Studentships (80)	2,701	2,701	5,402
Graduate school	711	711	1,422
Directorate	1,037	1,037	2,074
Equipment	278	278	556
Total	14,543	14,543	29,086
There was also a significant capital investment of £67M which is not detailed here			

SICSA

Governance / structure

Original Governance	<p>Board of Governance Principals (1 pa)</p> <p>Research Committee 3 Heads of School of the “host” institutions (Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews), 2 Heads of School representing the other institutions, the SICSA Director, Research Leaders from each theme (or their Deputies), and a Graduate Operations Group representative</p> <p>International Advisory Committee independent Chairperson, members from major international research laboratories, research councils and industry, and SFC and Scottish Enterprise nominees as observers (at least 1 pa)</p> <p>Graduate Operations Group</p>
Research themes	<p>Next Generation Internet</p> <p>Multimodal Interaction</p> <p>Modelling and Abstraction</p> <p>Complex System Engineering</p>
Directorate	<p>Director (0.2 FTE) (Director role ‘rotates’ between the 3 ‘host’ institutions)</p> <p>SICSA Knowledge Exchange Director / Deputy Director (0.2 FTE in-kind)</p> <p>SICSA Education Director (0.2FTE in-kind) – from 2011 onwards</p> <p>Business Development Executive (1 FTE)</p> <p>SICSA Graduate Academy Director (0.2 FTE)</p> <p>Executive Officer (1 FTE)</p> <p>Executive Assistant (1 FTE)</p>

End of award

Final report	January 2016
Highlights	<p>Graduate academy: 90 studentships, destinations including Google and BBC. Programme of summer school, annual conference and Distinguished Visitors Programme (analysis shows this is resulting in long-term collaborations). All PhD students registered at a SICSA institution are members of the academy.</p> <p>Membership: increased membership to include four associate members: UHI; UWS; Edinburgh Napier; GCU</p> <p>Academic staff: 40 staff were appointed, more than anticipated.</p> <p>KE: DemoFest a “flagship annual knowledge exchange event within Scotland with over 300 delegates in attendance from across academia, industry and the public sector, offering a unique opportunity for delegates to make connections, exchange ideas and expertise”.</p> <p>SICSA was awarded Smart Tourism programme in 2011. This received £600K SFC funding and leveraged a further £1.25M from partners.</p> <p>Research income: was over £37M in 13/14 – All SICSA-affiliated staff</p>
Major changes/ challenges	<p>Following discussion with SFC, SICSA’s remit was expanded in September 2011 to encompass Education, incorporating many of the activities of the informal Scottish Heads of Computing group.</p> <p>Introduced shorter term cross cutting ‘challenges’ in addition to the themes.</p>

SICSA

SICSA Continuation Funding

Partners	All 14 Informatics and Computing Science Schools in Scottish Universities.		
Funding	£600k SFC (later reduced) £445k cash contribution from institutions (£6k pa membership) £775k in kind contribution from institutions		
Start	2015/16	End	2019/20

Funding breakdown

	Total (£000s)
Staff costs (Directorate)	1,262
Graduate school (including summer schools, DVPs, conference)	310
Themes and challenges, including KE	238
Other (including marketing, T&S, conference sponsorship))	87
Education	50
Total	1,947

Governance	<p>SICSA Committee (All 14 Heads of Schools)</p> <p>SICSA Research Committee (SICSA Research Theme Leaders and SICSA Directors)</p> <p>SICSA Advisory Board (a mix of figures from academia, industry and public sector)</p> <p>Equal membership costs across institutions although assumed in-kind costs, in the way of theme leaders etc, will be higher from larger institutions.</p>
Directorate	<p>SICSA Director (0.2FTE)</p> <p>SICSA Graduate Academy Director (0.2FTE in-kind)</p> <p>SICSA Education Director (0.2FTE in-kind, with some supplemental funding 2018-20 from The Data Lab and SICSA)</p> <p>SICSA Knowledge Exchange & Impact Director/Deputy Director (0.2FTE in-kind)</p> <p>SICSA Executive Officer (1 FTE)</p> <p>SICSA Executive Assistant (1 FTE)</p> <p>SICSA Cyber Security Network Integrator (1FTE) – from 2017 - 2020</p>

Highlights from AY17/18 annual report

Themes: All seven themes highly active and cross-institutional (themes also reviewed in 2018 to ensure they are still relevant)

Funding Programmes: SICSA maintains a comprehensive portfolio of funding programmes open to all SICSA partners.

SICSA Cyber Nexus: Awarded £420K by the Scottish Government in 2017 to create the SICSA Cyber

SICSA

Nexus. The Cyber Nexus aims to establish a coherent and vibrant Scottish Cyber Security and Resilience innovation community; linking academia, business, government, the public sector and the third sector.

SICSA has supported the sector in developing **CDT proposals** and in forming consortia for this process and has subsequently written letters of support for 8 CDT proposals and has led on two pan-SICSA proposals.

Research income: Large increase in reported research income on previous year (£50M)

Innovation Centres: SICSA maintains close connections with the most relevant Innovation Centres to Computing (i.e. The Data Lab and CENSIS). We have reciprocal arrangements for Boards of Governance membership, reviewing proposals etc. SICSA played fundamental part in the establishment of The Data Lab in particular.

Conferences: SICSA support for UIST/ITS/ICMI laid the foundations for bringing CHI2019 (nearly 4000 people) to Glasgow, generating an estimated £8M for the city's economy. This was the first time this flagship HCI conference has been held in the UK.