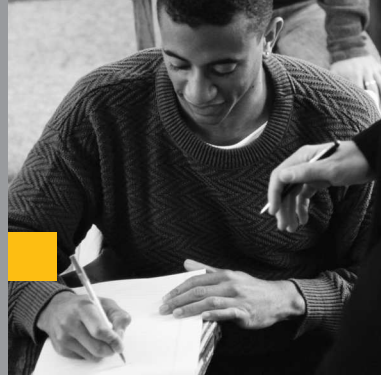


SAP Customer Success Story Higher Education and Research



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Omar Benaddi, SAP Systems Manager, University of Leeds

AT A GLANCE

Summary

As one of the United Kingdom's top research universities, with some 2,500 active grants supported by nearly 6,000 academic and support staff and an annual research income exceeding US\$132 million, the University of Leeds chose SAP® Grants Management, a world-class grants management and reporting application.

Web Site

www.leeds.ac.uk

Key Challenges

- Enhance research project management and reporting to grants sponsors
- Enable compliance with government full economic costing initiative

Project Objectives

- Implement a grants management solution to help protect the university's second-largest income stream and insure its research competitiveness
- Integrate SAP Grants Management with existing data from SAP solutions and non-SAP database systems

Solutions and Services

- SAP Grants Management
- SAP Ramp-Up, a part of SAP Customer Services Network
- SAP NetWeaver™ platform: SAP Web Application Server and SAP Business Intelligence components

Why SAP Solution

- Enables full economic costing and flexible cost reporting to sponsors in the formats they require
- Enables internal efficiencies that sharpen the university's competitive strengths in research

Implementation Highlights

- Integrated SAP Grants Management in just a few weeks
- Implemented solution as a pilot project, then rolled it out to include nearly 60 departments, as well as almost 60 research centers and institutes
- Was first organization in Europe and the first existing SAP customer worldwide to implement solution

Key Benefits

- Enhanced ability to comply with government costing requirements and sponsor-requested reporting formats
- Improved efficiency by enabling users to access just one, not multiple systems
- Reduced long-term support costs
- Enhanced research competitiveness

Existing Environment

- Legacy systems
- SAP R/3® software, now available in the mySAP™ ERP solution

Database

Oracle

Hardware

Sun Solaris

Operating System

UNIX

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The First SAP Customer in Europe and the First Existing SAP Customer Worldwide to Roll Out SAP® Grants Management

University research is among the most competitive arenas in the world. To major universities like the University of Leeds – one of the top research universities in the United Kingdom, with some 2,500 active grants supported by nearly 6,000 academic and support staff and an annual research income of more than US\$132 million – enhancing its research competitiveness is essential to protecting its second-largest income stream. And this is a major reason why the university uses SAP® software.

Where Do Those Research Dollars Go?

“The management of this degree and caliber of university research activity,” says Omar Benaddi, SAP systems manager at the University of Leeds, “is highly complex and dynamic, as you can imagine.” The variety of research activity extends across all faculties and departments, often crossing traditional subject boundaries. Interdisciplinary research is promoted through some 58 departments and the same number of research centers and institutes.



Although the university receives an annual lump sum from the government for infrastructure costs, it must apply for other grants by open bid, which are regulated by the government's full economic costing initiative. This requires the university to not only demonstrate all research activity and costs, but to prove, in the case of joint funding where costs are split, that there is no occurrence of cross-subsidization. The university must also accurately report costs to grant sponsors in the format the sponsors desire.

This Is a Job for SAP

In order to comply with these reporting requirements while managing the diversity and complexity of so many grants, the university must have an integrated solution, and no one does that better than SAP. "In fact," says Benaddi, "SAP was the first software company to offer a grants management solution, and since we were an existing SAP customer, we decided to adopt it." The university already had SAP sales and distribution, materials management, financials, human resources and payroll, and project system capabilities in place – capabilities that are now available in the mySAP™ ERP solution.

Benaddi also notes that the university was the earliest adopter of the SAP Grants Management application in Europe and the first existing SAP customer to implement the solution worldwide.

Business Intelligence Is Also Critical

As part of its overall implementation, the university made plans to first deploy the SAP Business Intelligence (SAP BI) component found in the SAP NetWeaver™ platform. Its goal was to integrate data from the non-SAP student accounting system and non-SAP research publications database with data from its existing SAP solutions. It would then implement SAP Grants Management to comply with government and sponsor formatting requirements.

"Whereas the grants management solution focuses on our research activities," Benaddi explains, "the business intelligence capabilities enable us to produce the strategic road maps and balanced scorecards we need for accurate planning." The business information warehouse capabilities help the university discern how much time lecturers are spending on research versus teaching activities; for example, their contracts might specify 40%.

The university also installed SAP Web Application Server, another component in the SAP NetWeaver platform. Still ahead: enterprise portal capabilities.

According to Research, Time Is Money

The faster the implementation, the faster the university could hone its competitive research edge – which is why the University of Leeds took advantage of SAP Ramp-Up, SAP’s process to help customers quickly achieve value from their solutions while reducing associated costs and risks. Deployed as a pilot project, the University of Leeds rolled out the solution in less than a month. In addition, as a certified SAP Customer Competence Center, the university was able to speed up data integration and ensure a successful implementation.

SAP Grants Management Grants Benefits Too

The University of Leeds is reaping business benefits from the solution today and will realize others in the long-term.

Benaddi reports that before the implementation of the grants management and business intelligence capabilities, “we had separate systems – a rather bizarre solution. But, after the implementation of SAP Grants Management, which took just weeks, we had, for the first time, all the information on any specific grant in one place.” This means the university can save time while reducing redundancies, errors, and long-term support costs.

For example, using SAP BI, the university can greatly reduce the time it takes to perform the annual research assessment exercise (RAE), which must show figures spanning more than six years to demonstrate the full range of the university’s research activity. “We can generate these reports five times faster,” Benaddi states.

With SAP Grants Management, university administrators are able to accurately comply with the government’s full economic costing regulations, which require institutions to report research

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project costs in the format wanted by the grant sponsors. Also, because many research projects are jointly funded by government through the research councils and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the university can use the solution to show these parties that there is no cross-subsidization.

All of these benefits work together to help the university increase and enhance its competitive strengths in research and to continually extend the value and scope of its national and international research projects. At the same time, the grants management solution from SAP is helping the University of Leeds to not only protect its second largest income stream, but also to secure its presence in the world research community as a whole.

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