


Key figures for the Research Council

Statistics for projects, allocations and grant applications
at the Research Council of Norway for 2009



Content

- Key figures for the Research Council 2
- 1 Key figures..... 3
 - 1.1 Development in number of projects 3
 - 1.2 Sectors 3
 - 1.3 Subject fields 4
 - 1.4 Research funding by county 5
 - 1.5 Funding instruments and main activities 6
 - 1.6 Recruitment 8
- 2 Priority areas in the white paper *Commitment to Research* 9
- 3 The universities 10
- 4 The university colleges 12
- 5 Independent research institutes 12
- 6 Trade and industry 14
- 7 Gender distribution 15
 - 7.1 Project managers..... 15
- 8 Grant applications 17
 - 8.1 Application types 18
 - 8.2 Subject fields 19
 - 8.3 Grant awards..... 20

Key figures for the Research Council

This document is an extract of a larger Norwegian-language publication featuring statistics for projects, allocations and grant applications at the Research Council of Norway for 2009. Key figures are presented for allocations from the Research Council for 2009 and preceding years and for grant applications submitted in connection with the Research Council's funding announcements in 2009.

Each year the Research Council receives around 5 000 grant proposals for funding for new projects. There are also active projects on an ongoing basis, i.e. projects that have been awarded grants in a previous year.

The data in this publication are based on information recorded for each individual project. The first chapter presents selected key figures for allocations from the Research Council. The subsequent chapters present statistics in specific areas/subject fields.

1 Key figures

1.1 Development in number of projects

In recent years the Research Council has sought to redesign its project portfolio to reduce the number and increase the scale of the research projects. The table below shows the number of active projects per year, i.e. projects that received research funding from the Research Council during the year indicated.

Table 1. R&D projects funded by the Research Council. Total number of projects and number of projects by type of institution/sector.

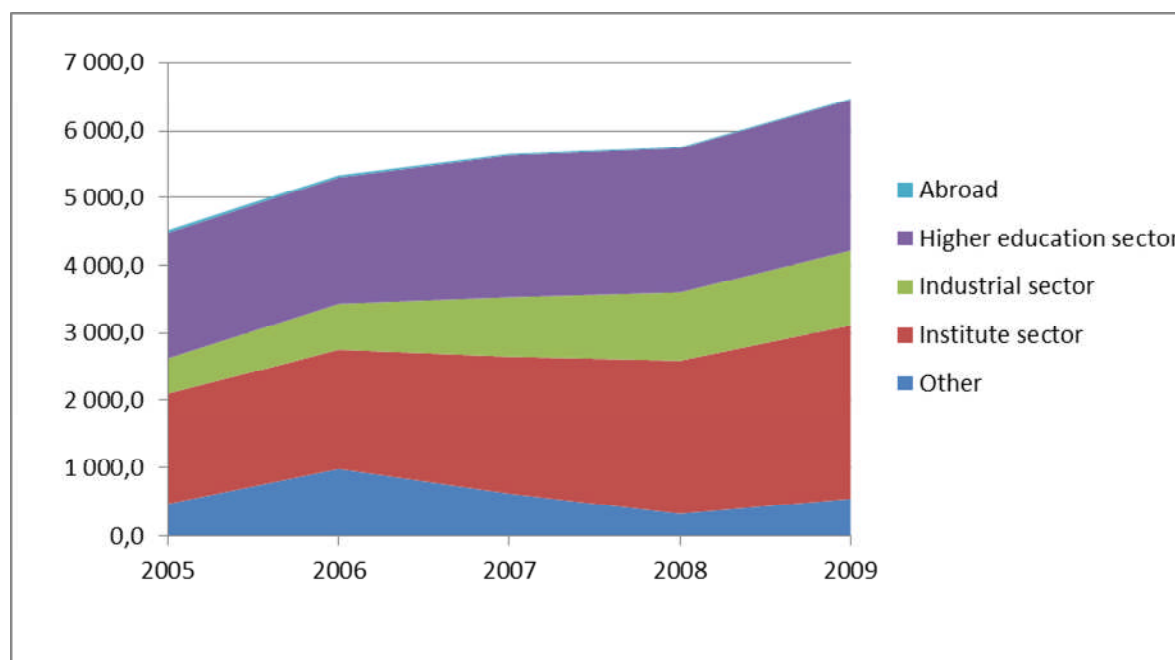
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total number of projects	4 757	4 879	5 225	5 260	4 776
Of which, number of projects					
- at universities	1 873	1 881	1 903	1 750	1 700
- at state university colleges	128	165	197	177	166
- at independent research institutes	1 474	1 483	1 737	1 686	1 444
- in trade and industry	591	728	818	1 133	871

1.2 Sectors

All grant applications and projects granted funding must have a single Project Owner (an institution or company) as the contractual partner to the Research Council. The figure below illustrates the distribution of allocations from the Research Council by sector, based on the Project Owner's affiliation. In national R&D statistics R&D activities are classified into three sectors of performance: the higher education sector (universities and university colleges), the institute sector (independent research institutes) and the industrial sector (trade and industry). As a result, some of the health trusts are categorised under the higher education sector (university hospitals) while others are categorised under the institute sector.

The category “Other” primarily encompasses projects with more administrative-related purposes, such as conferences, meetings and day-to-day activities under the programme.

Figure 1. Allocations from the Research Council, by sector. In NOK million.



Allocations from the Research Council to projects in the industrial sector doubled during the 2005-2009 period. This growth is a result of increased focus on user-driven research. There was also a substantial rise in allocations to projects in the institute sector. The total sum shown above for the institute sector includes not only project funding, but also basic allocations which the Research Council is responsible for providing. Very little funding was allocated to projects abroad as all projects granted funding by the Research Council are required to have a Norwegian contractual partner.

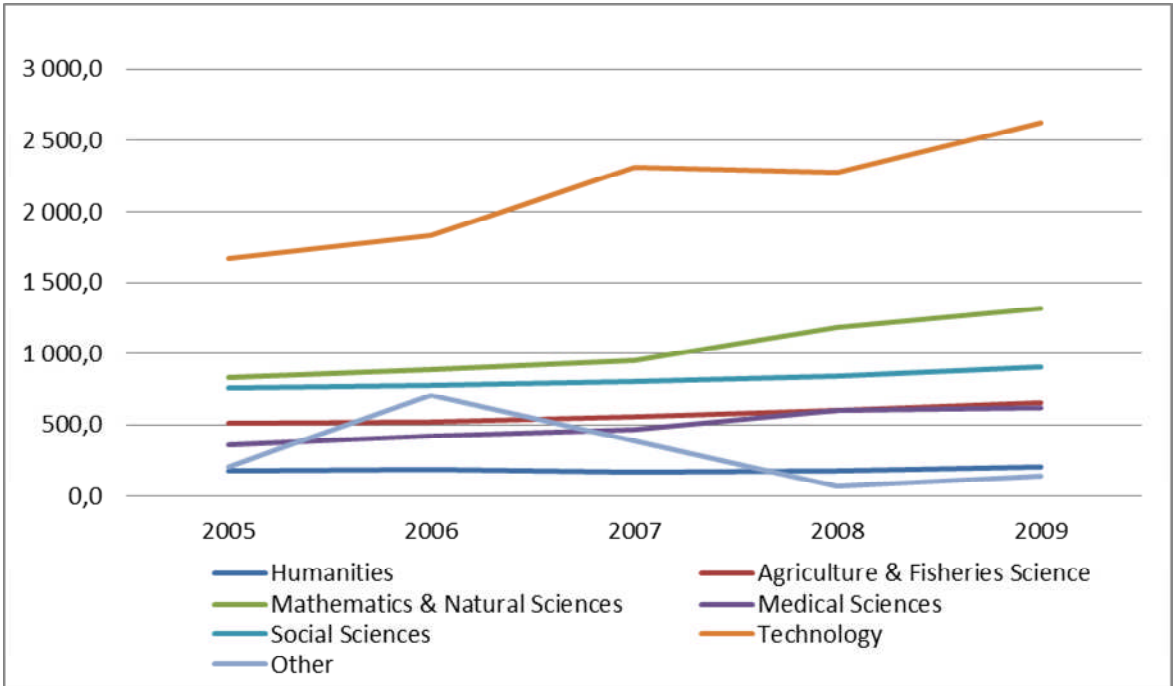
1.3 Subject fields

The figure below illustrates the distribution of the Research Council’s overall allocations by subject field during the 2005-2009 period.

Growth has primarily taken place in the MST subjects, especially “Technology”. There was a 74 per cent increase in the number of projects in the subject field of “Medical Sciences” during the 2005-2009 period. Nevertheless, the allocations to projects in this field made up only 10 per cent of the total allocations in 2009.

Development in terms of the subject field addressed by Research Council-funded projects reflects Norwegian research policy priorities, which have placed special focus on MST subjects.

Figure 2. Allocations from the Research Council, by subject field. In NOK million.



1.4 Research funding by county

The table on the next page shows the distribution of allocations for the 2005-2009 period among Norway’s 20 counties. Not surprisingly, the bulk of the allocations was provided to counties with universities where the largest R&D environments are concentrated. This results in Oslo and Sør-Trøndelag counties topping the list in terms of the total amount of allocations received.

Table 2. Allocations from the Research Council, by county. In NOK million.

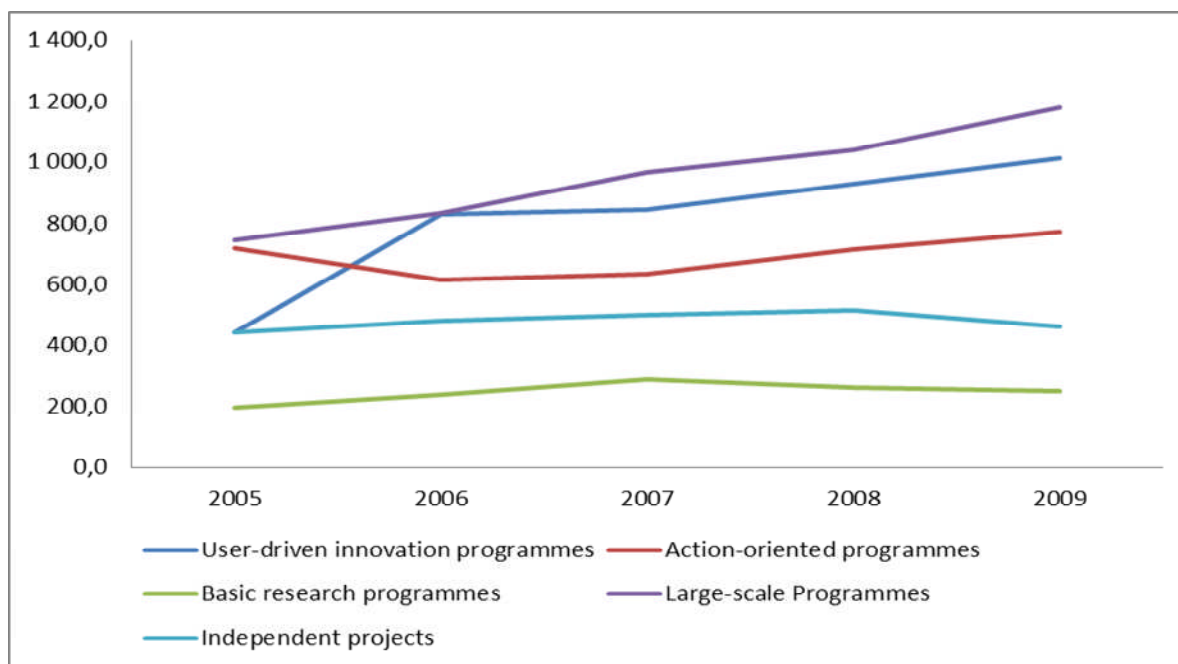
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
OSLO	1 432.0	1 452.6	1 627.3	1 794.8	1 893.6
SØR-TRØNDELAG	871.8	919.5	1 174.6	1 186.1	1 378.6
AKERSHUS	586.9	644.3	754.7	791.7	866.9
HORDALAND	601.6	709.9	751.6	774.9	804.8
TROMS	290.7	309.0	391.3	365.9	406.8
ROGALAND	143.2	178.3	188.4	214.2	186.5
MØRE OG ROMSDAL	32.1	30.5	76.8	93.6	83.2
BUSKERUD	18.3	34.9	32.4	57.0	74.3
VESTFOLD	17.7	21.4	42.9	47.7	68.9
TELEMARK	35.3	47.9	45.7	72.5	58.9
VEST-AGDER	25.5	31.9	37.8	46.1	56.8
OPPLAND	42.8	58.9	58.0	50.1	56.3
HEDMARK	16.1	17.6	31.2	40.2	47.4
NORDLAND	29.2	38.6	44.8	52.0	43.7
ØSTFOLD	12.5	21.5	28.8	37.5	39.7
NORD-TRØNDELAG	16.6	14.5	26.5	35.8	33.2
SOGN OG FJORDANE	22.1	28.8	25.2	34.0	20.2
AUST-AGDER	11.1	25.9	33.6	25.1	20.1
FINNMARK	23.1	18.7	22.7	17.5	17.7
SVALBARD	8.6	4.1	11.1	10.5	7.4
Unknown	287.6	724.0	250.2	12.1	309.4
	4 524.8	5 332.8	5 655.6	5 759.3	6 474.4

1.5 Funding instruments and main activities

Research programmes and activities at the Research Council are grouped under various *main activities*, which in turn are grouped under various *funding instruments*. For instance, “Research programmes” are a type of funding instrument, under which the “Large-scale Programmes” are a main activity. The programme on Clean Energy for the Future (RENERGI) is a research programme under the main activity “Large-scale Programmes”.

The figure on the next page illustrates the distribution of the allocations from the Research Council among the funding instruments “Research programmes” and “Independent projects”.

Figure 3. Allocations from the Research Council, by type of research programme/independent projects. In NOK million.



There was significant growth in allocations to the Large-scale Programmes during the 2005-2009 period. This is largely due to the fact that these programmes are linked to the Government's research policy priorities. Less than 10 per cent of the Research Council's total allocations was awarded to independent projects. Overall growth for the period was 4 per cent.

The figure shows a marked increase from 2005 to 2006 in allocations to the user-driven projects. This reflects among other things the revision of the structure of funding instruments undertaken in 2005, in which a number of action-oriented programmes were reclassified as user-driven programmes.

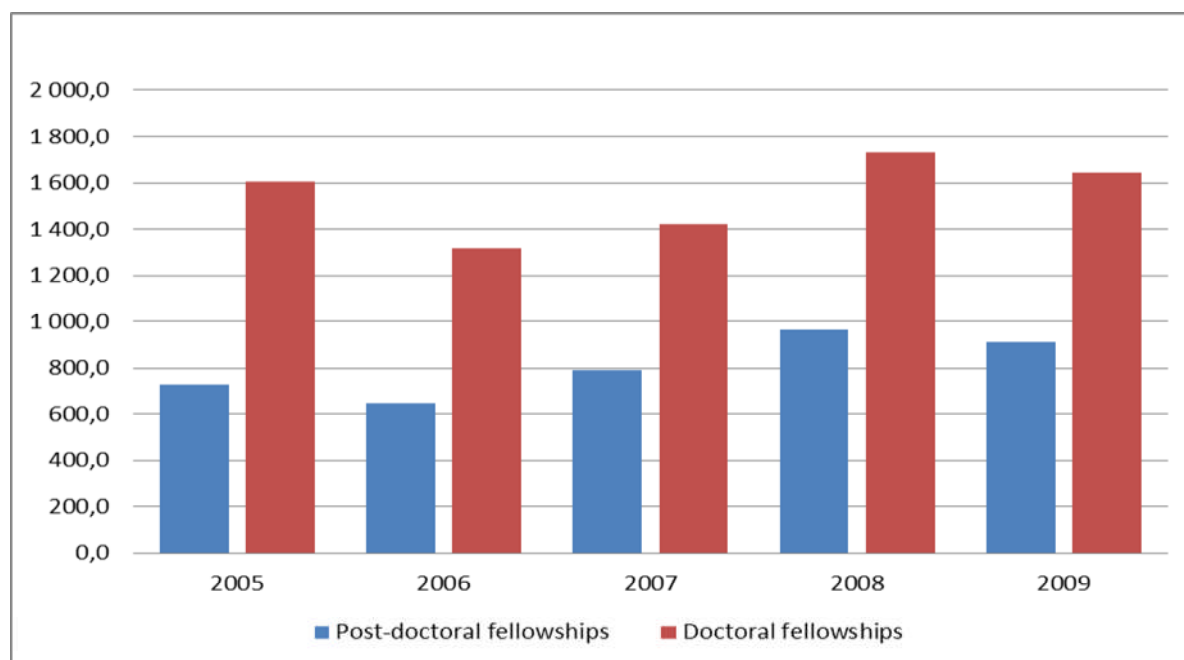
1.6 Recruitment

The Research Council contributes to the recruitment of research personnel through allocation of project funding. In certain cases funding is earmarked for recruitment activities, but for the most part the Research Council awards framework allocations, out of which the Project Owner finances doctoral and/or post-doctoral fellowships.

Table 3. Doctoral fellows affiliated with projects funded by the Research Council. Number of full-time equivalents and percentage of women.

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Women	533.6	584.9	769.2	817.9
Men	766.8	824.5	953.4	934.5
Gender unknown	4.1	1.2	7.3	26.0
Total:	1 304.5	1 410.6	1 730.0	1 778.3
Percentage of women	41 %	41 %	44 %	46 %

Figure 4. Doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships funded by the Research Council. Number of full-time equivalents.



2 Priority areas in the white paper *Commitment to Research*

The Government white paper on research for the 2006-2010 period, *Commitment to Research* (Report No. 20 to the Storting (2004-2005)), laid out thematic, technology and structural priority areas for Norwegian research. By categorising the projects according to these priority areas, the Research Council can report the extent to which it has followed up these priorities through the allocation of project funding.

Table 4. Total allocations by priority areas set out in the white paper on research. In NOK million.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2006- 2009
Structural					
Basic research	2 237.2	2 687.7	2 677.9	2 779.3	24 %
Internationalisation of research	876.9	1 233.4	1 333.0	1 568.6	79 %
Research-based innovation	2 182.0	2 574.0	2 893.7	3 216.7	47 %
					Change 2006- 2009
Technology	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Biotechnology	582.1	628.4	688.2	751.1	29 %
Information & communication technology (ICT)	548.4	616.4	658.0	746.3	36 %
New materials & nanotechnology	214.6	261.2	283.4	256.5	20 %
					Change 2006- 2009
Thematic	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Energy & the environment	922.2	1 174.9	1 282.4	1 510.2	64 %
Oceans	476.1	573.9	621.8	651.8	37 %
Health	584.5	753.3	879.0	977.4	67 %
Food	618.7	643.1	667.9	719.3	16 %
Welfare	212.5	298.0	323.1	344.6	62 %

3 The universities

Institutions of higher education and independent research institutes receive the largest proportion of the Research Council's allocations. Naturally enough the universities, especially the broad-spectrum universities in Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim were the recipients of the largest amount of funding.

In 2009, Norway had 7 universities: the University of Oslo (UiO), the University of Bergen (UiB), the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the University of Tromsø (UiT), the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), the University of Stavanger (UiS) and the University of Agder (UiA).

The figure on the next page illustrates the development in allocations to the universities over time.

Figure 5. Allocations from the Research Council, by university. In NOK million.

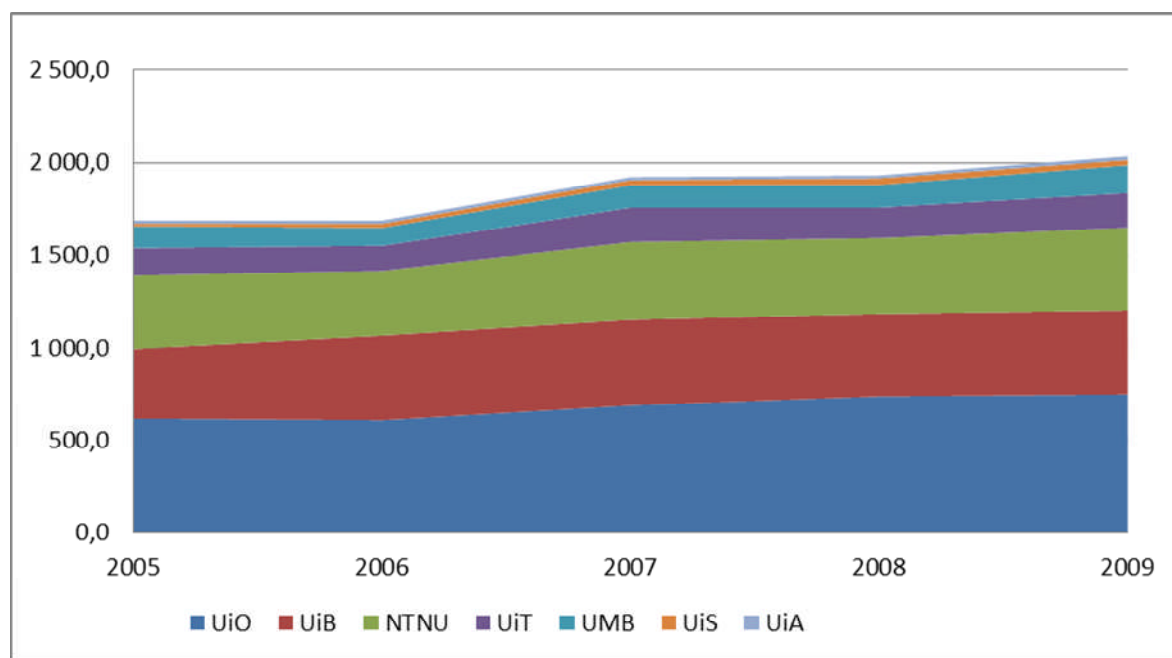
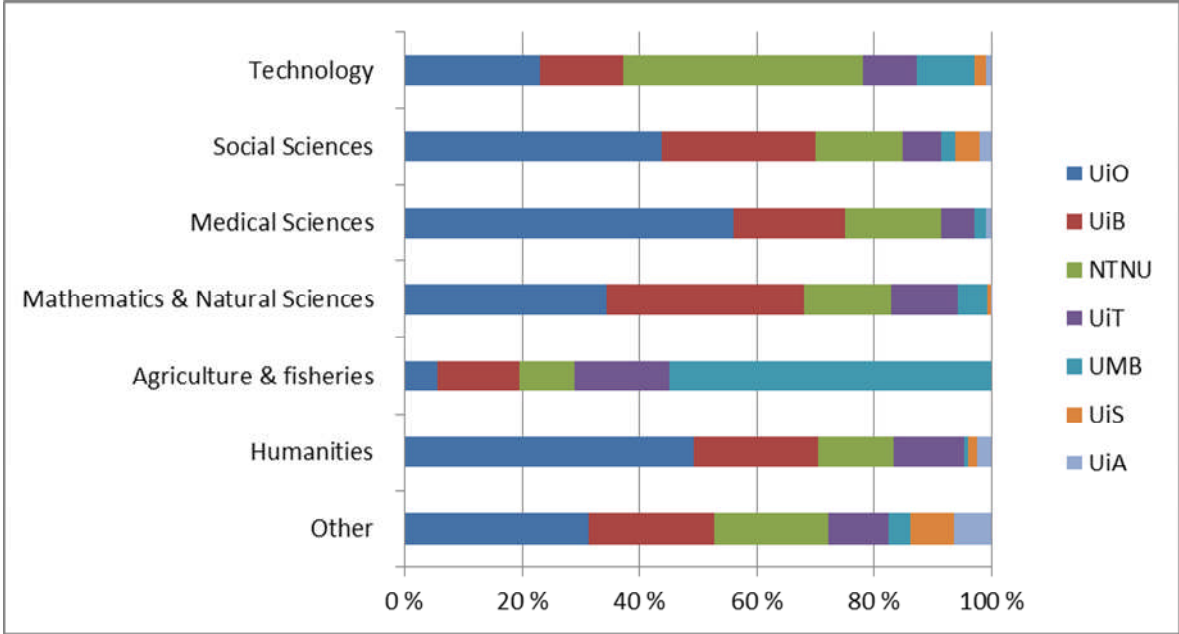


Figure 6. Allocations from the Research Council to the individual universities, by subject field. Percentage in 2009.

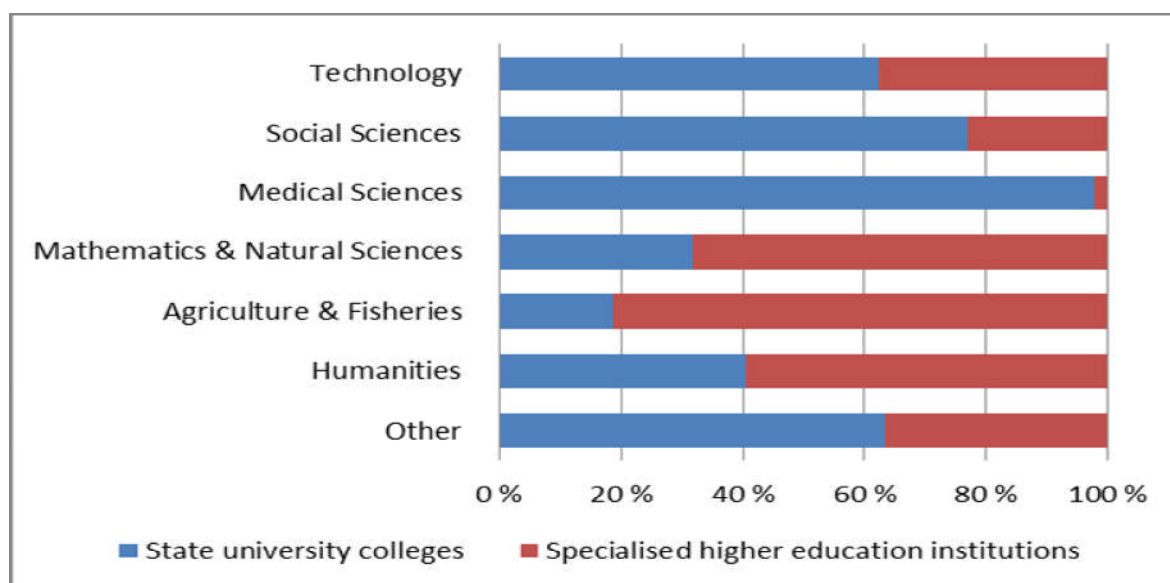


The University of Oslo (UiO) received the largest proportion of allocations in all but two of the subject fields. The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) received more than 50 per cent of allocations to projects in the subject field of “Agriculture and Fisheries Science/Veterinary Sciences”, while the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) received over 40 per cent of allocations to projects in the subject field of “Technology”.

4 The university colleges

The figure below illustrates the distribution of the allocations from the Research Council between state university colleges and specialised higher education institutions, by subject field in 2009.

Figure 7. Allocations from the Research Council to university colleges and specialised higher education institutions, by subject field. Percentage in 2009.



5 Independent research institutes

The Research Council has a strategic responsibility for independent research institutes in Norway. In the government framework for basic funding to independent research institutes the Research Council's strategic responsibility is tied to the approximately 50 research institutes which it grants basic funding. A new basic funding scheme for independent research institutes was introduced in 2009. The Research Council administers the scheme in accordance with the rules set out in the government guidelines for basic funding for independent research institutes.

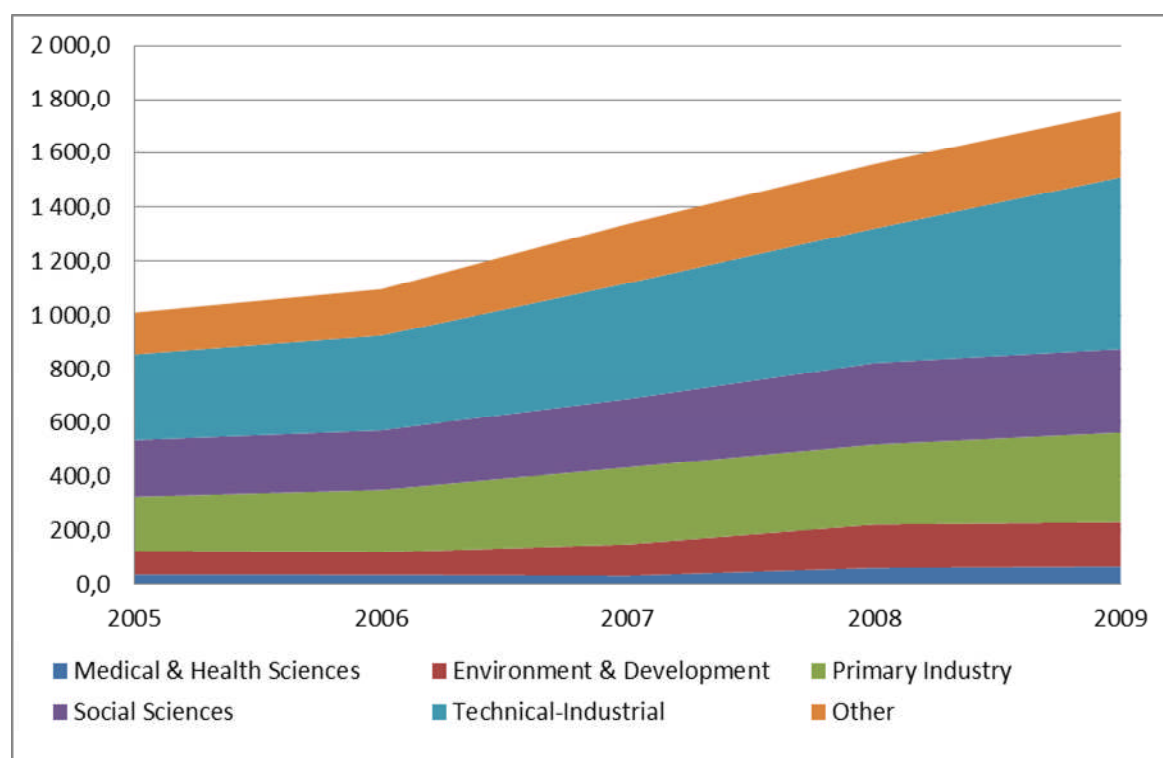
The research institutes that receive basic funding from the Research Council also receive ordinary project funding. The table on the next page shows the distribution of the total allocations to independent research institutes broken down into project funding and basic funding.

Table 5. Allocations from the Research Council to independent research institutes, by type of allocation. In NOK million.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Percentage of total, 2009	Growth 2005-2009
Project funding	1 009.4	1 095.3	1 337.4	1 557.9	1 754.9	68 %	74 %
Basic funding	624.7	680.1	697.8	716.5	815.9	32 %	31 %
	1 634.1	1 775.4	2 035.1	2 274.4	2 570.9	100 %	57 %

The table above shows that the amount of allocations from the Research Council to independent research institutes rose by 57 per cent during the 2005-2009 period and that the largest proportion of this growth is due to increases in project funding.

Figure 8. Allocations from the Research Council to independent research institutes (excl. basic funding), by subject area of institute. In NOK million.



The figure illustrates the marked increase in the amount of allocations from the Research Council to independent research institutes during the 2005-2009 period, and how the allocations are distributed among the various types of institutes.

6 Trade and industry

In 2009, 17 per cent of the allocations from the Research Council were awarded to projects whose Project Owner is a company. The table below shows that allocations to trade and industry more than doubled during the 2005-2009 period. The largest number of projects were in the subject field “Technology”.

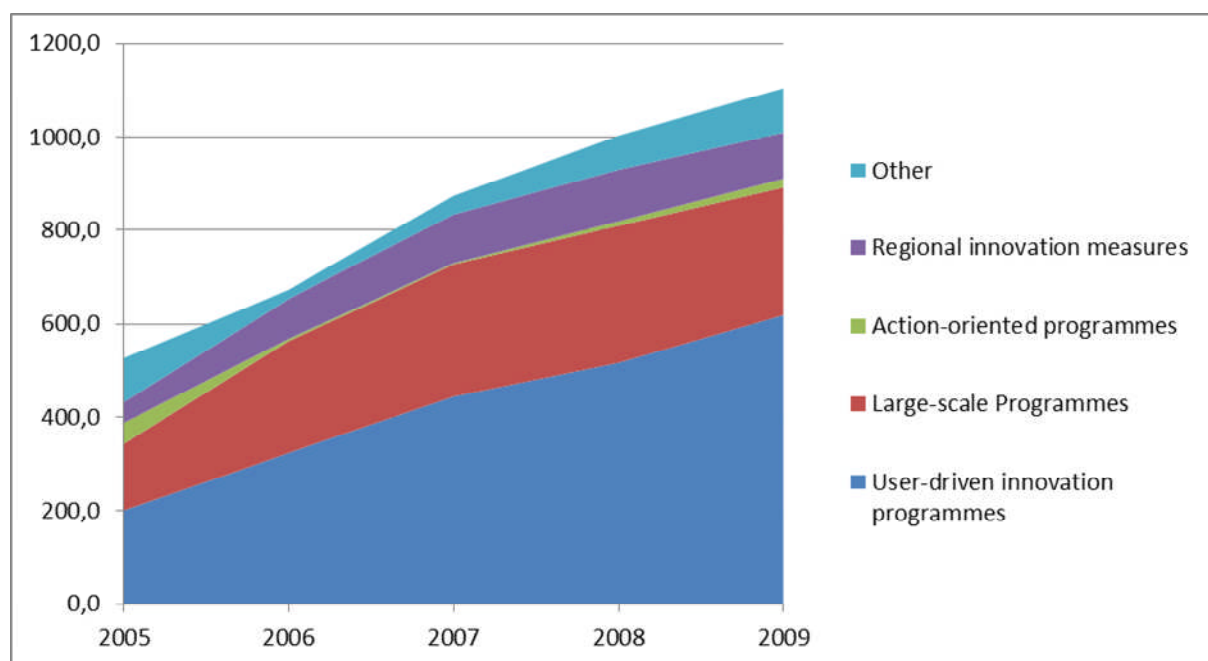
Table 6. Allocations from the Research Council to trade and industry. In NOK million.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Allocations (NOK million)	527.0	673.0	873.8	1 003.2	1 103.0
Doctoral fellowships (no. of full-time equivalents)	64.5	68.4	102.3	150.6	173.4
Post-doctoral fellowships (no. of full-time equivalents)	11.0	12.9	27.9	44.3	37.1

The table also shows that there was a marked growth in the number of doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships incorporated into projects in trade and industry during the period.

As shown in the figure below, there was a large increase in allocations to user-driven innovation programmes, which reflects intensified efforts in this area. The figure also shows that trade and industry benefited significantly from the Large-scale Programme initiative.

Figure 9. Allocations from the Research Council to trade and industry, by the key funding instruments at the Research Council (type of programme/other). In NOK million.



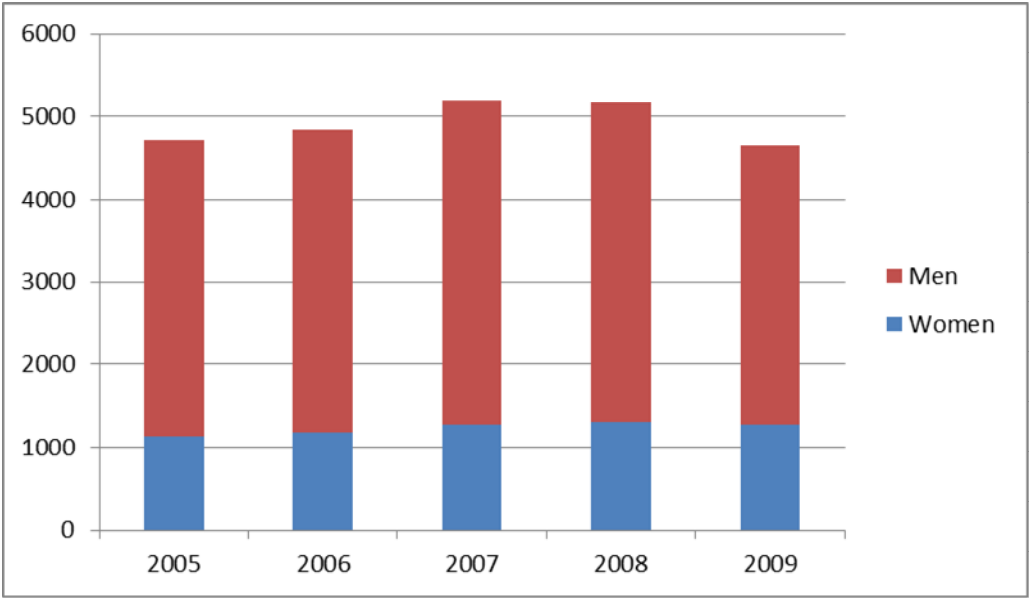
7 Gender distribution

In the most recent white papers on research, the Government emphasised that achieving a better gender balance in research will promote research quality and relevance. Ensuring the high quality of Norwegian research and higher education will require the recruitment of the most talented candidates, and efforts must be made to recruit students and researchers of both genders to all disciplines.

7.1 Project managers

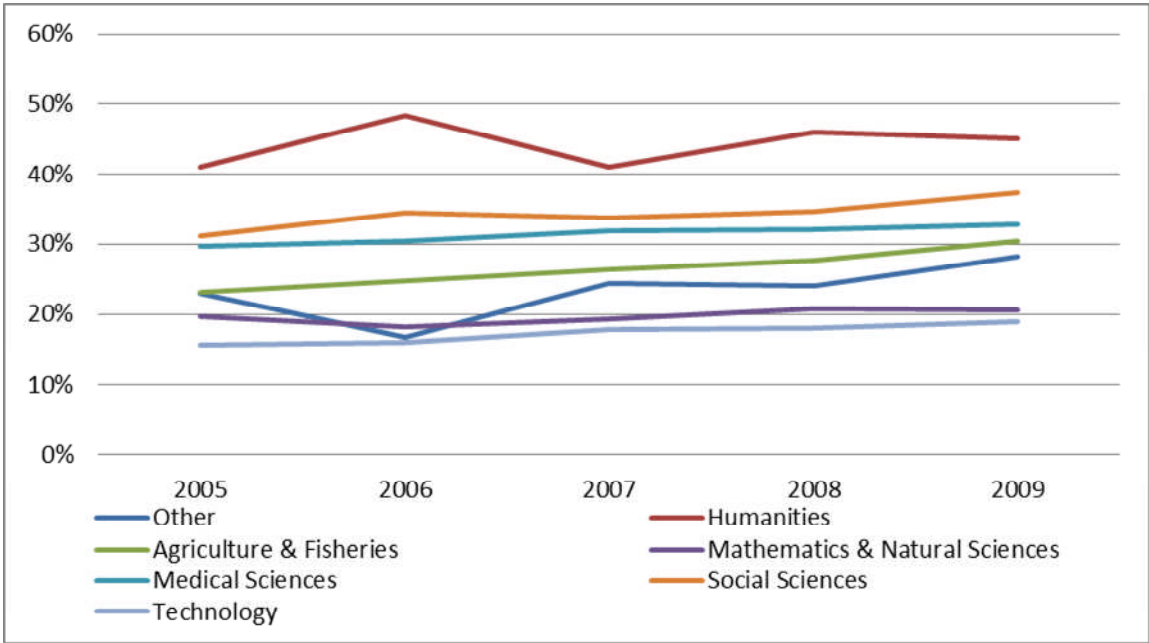
All projects granted funding by the Research Council must have a project manager. The figure below shows that the percentage of women project managers increased from 24 to 27 per cent during the period.

Figure 10. Number of projects funded by the Research Council in 2009, by gender of project manager.



The figure below illustrates the development in the percentage of women in the various subject fields over time. The figures show that the percentage of women rose in all of the subject fields during the period.

Figure 11. Percentage of women project managers, by subject field.

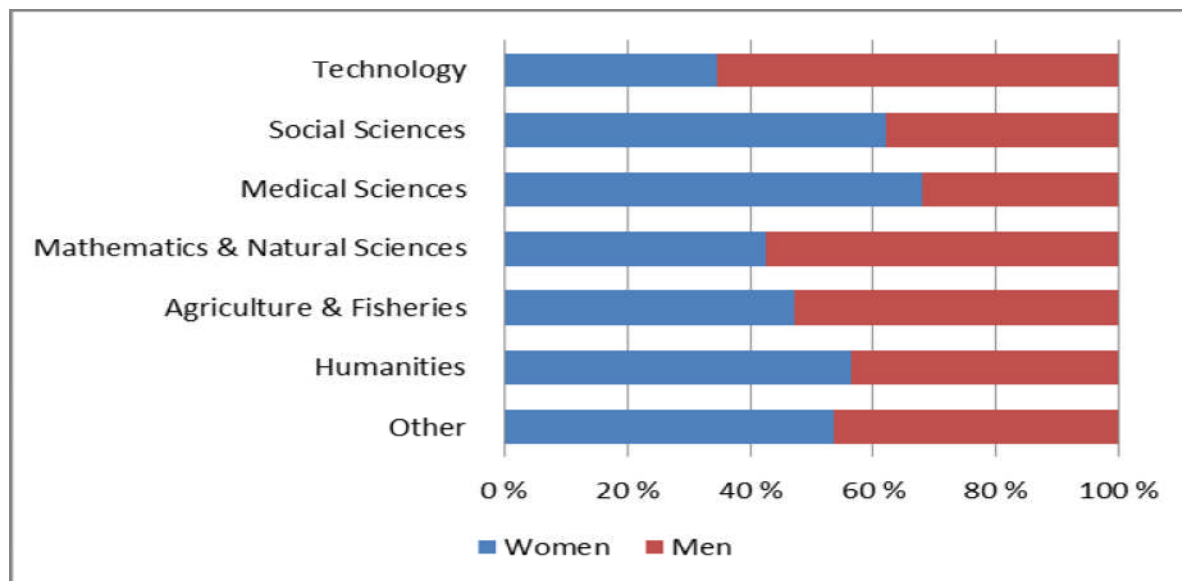


A comparison of Research Council-funded projects at institutions of higher education, independent research institutes and in trade and industry shows that there is a higher percentage of women project managers at the independent research institutes. The percentage of women project

managers in trade and industry is significantly lower than at the higher education institutions and independent research institutes.

The number of doctoral fellowships and percentage of women fellowship-holders varies a good deal among the subject fields.

Figure 12. Doctoral fellowships funded by the Research Council. Number of full-time equivalents in 2009, by subject field.



The percentage of women doctoral fellowship-holders in “Medical Sciences” and “Social Sciences” is 68 per cent and 62 per cent, respectively. The lowest percentage of women is found in “Technology” (38 per cent). With the exception of “Humanities” (56 per cent), the percentage of women in the other subject fields is between 40 and 50 per cent.

8 Grant applications

Each year the Research Council receives around 5 000 applications for research funding via the eSøknad electronic submission service. Eighty-five per cent of the grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009 were submitted in response to funding announcements with fixed submission deadlines. The other applications target the Research Council’s funding instruments with open-ended deadlines (for example, scholarships under Cultural Agreements, personal overseas research grants, publication support and the like).

Table 7. Number of grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009.

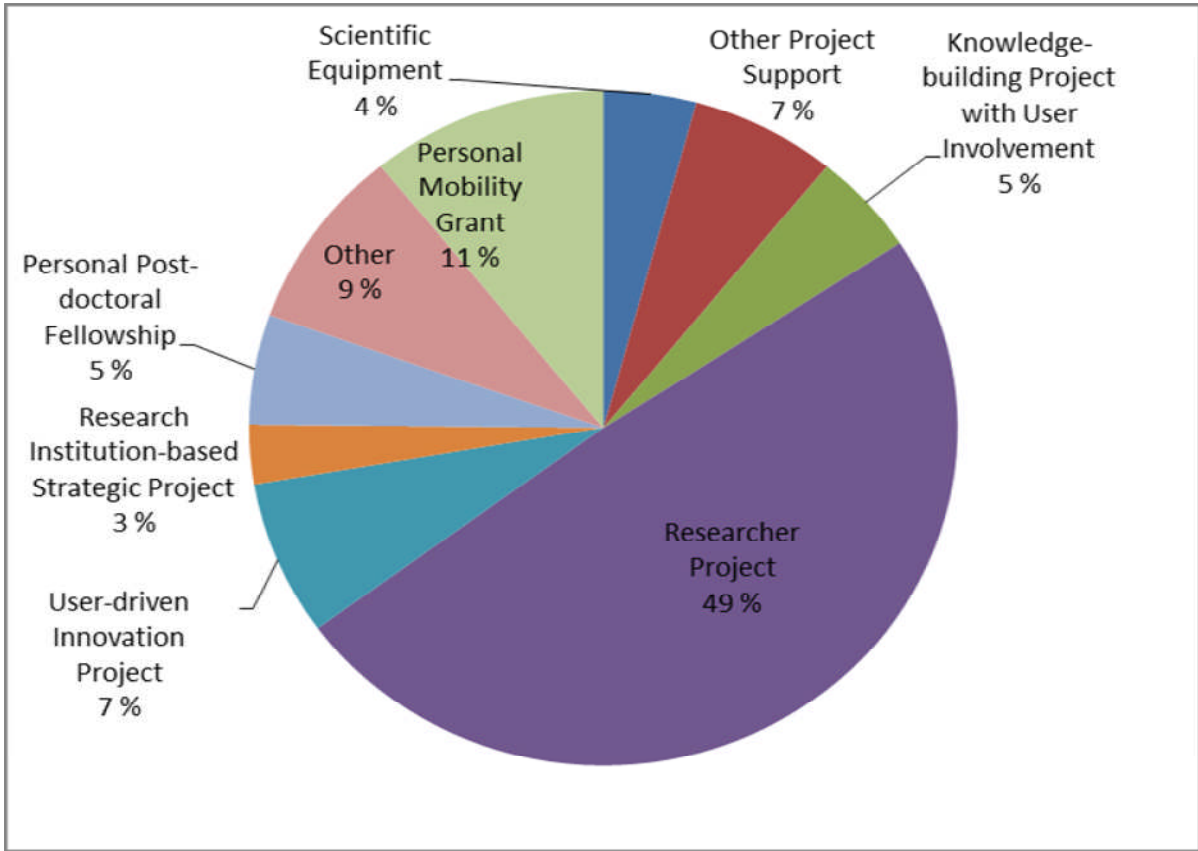
	Number
Total number of grant applications received in 2009	5 088
- Of which, number fully processed	4 017

The statistics in this chapter are based on the 4 017 fully processed grant applications.

8.1 Application types

Calls for proposals for research funding issued by the Research Council specify which *application type(s)* applicants are required to use. All research programmes and activities at the Research Council employ standard application types with appurtenant assessment criteria. The Researcher Project application type is employed most frequently.

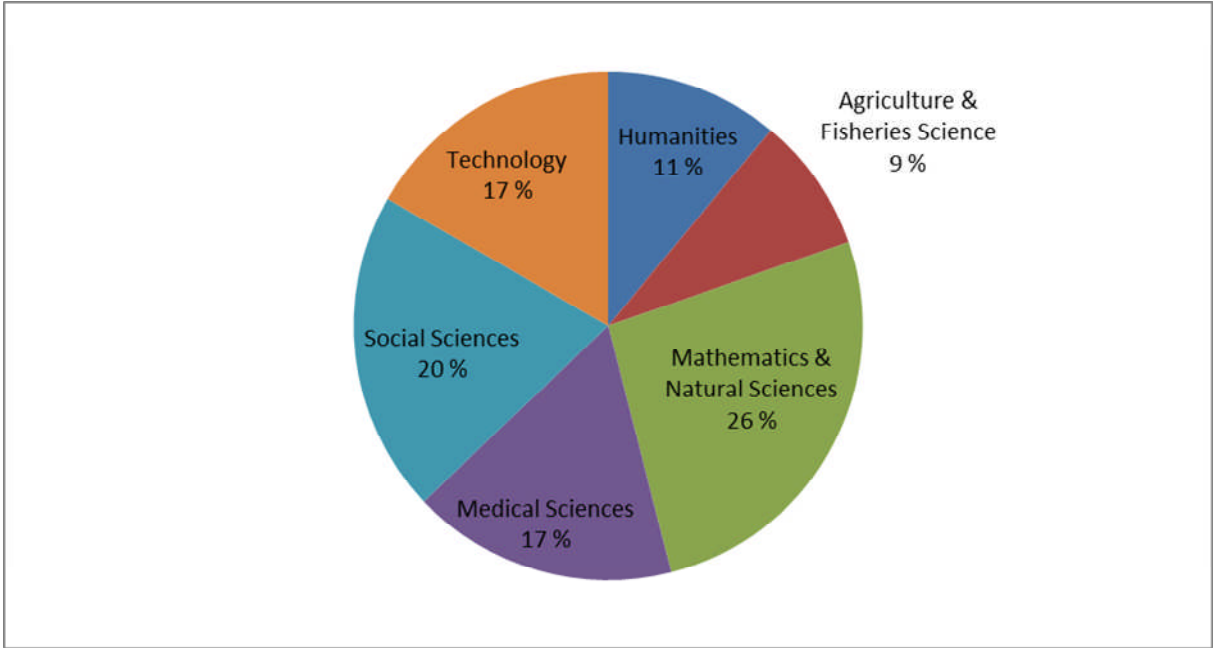
Figure 13. Number of grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009, by application type.



8.2 Subject fields

All grant applications processed by the Research Council are labelled with a subject-field code. The figure on the next page illustrates the distribution of the grant applications among the various subject fields. The largest group of grant applications targeted the subject field “Mathematics and Natural Sciences”, while the remaining applications were distributed relatively evenly among the other subject fields.

Figure 14. Number of grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009, by subject field.

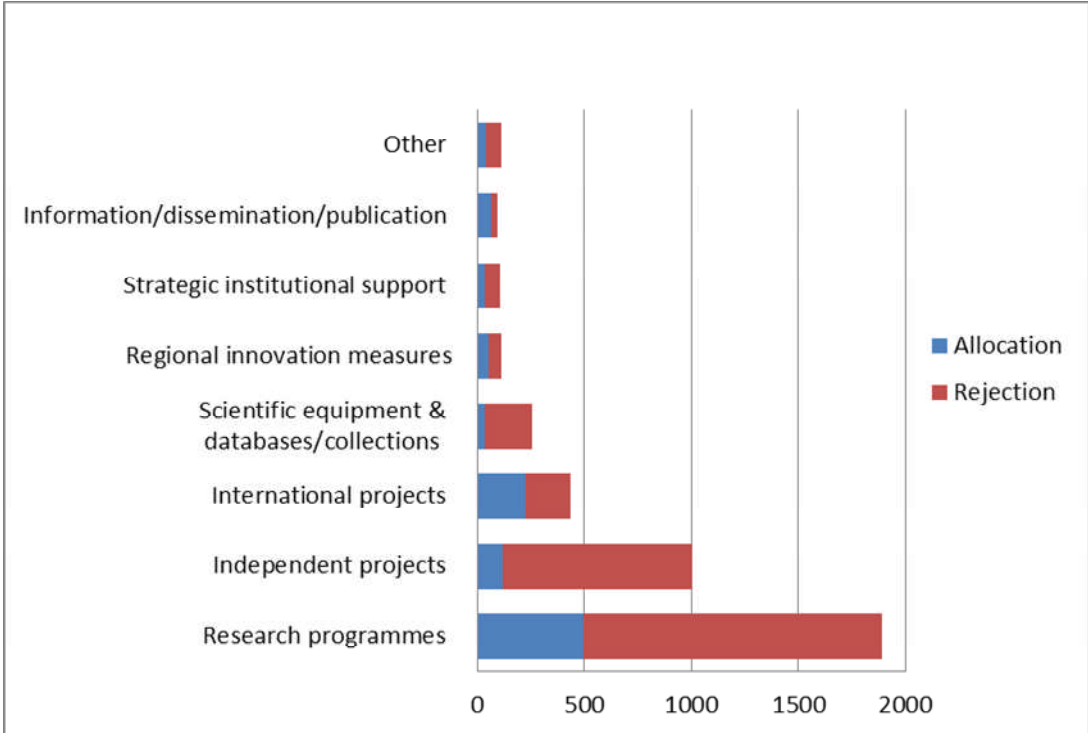


8.3 Grant awards

Of the 4 017 grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009, 26.7 per cent (1 017 applications) were awarded allocations.

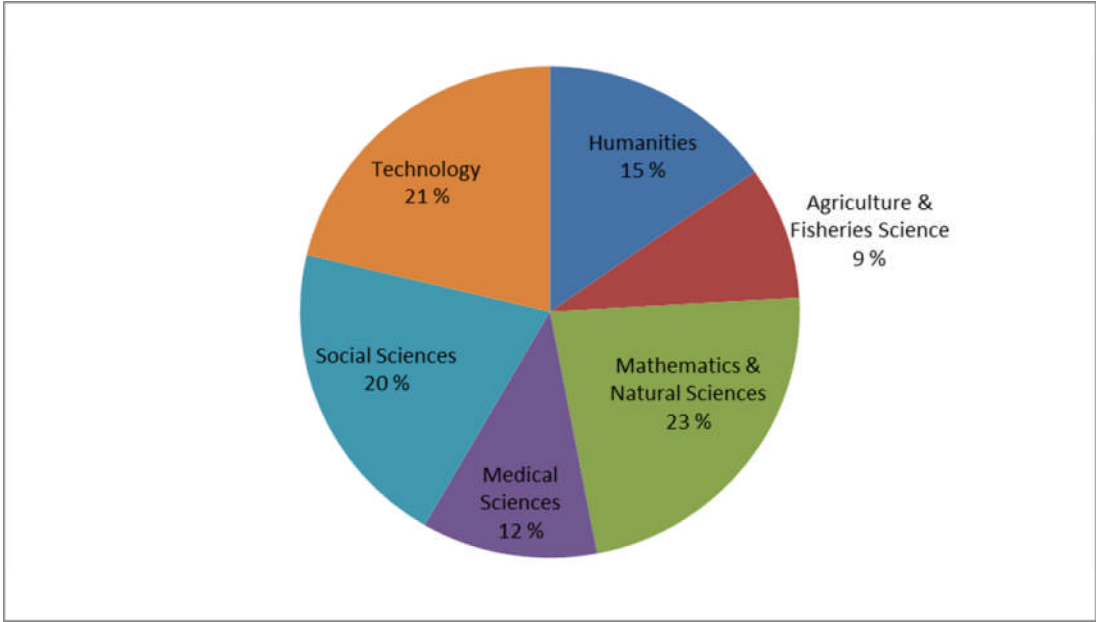
The figure below shows the number of grant applications that received allocations, distributed among the Research council’s various main activities.

Figure 15. Number of grant applications received by the Research Council in 2009, by funding instrument. Broken down into allocation and rejection.



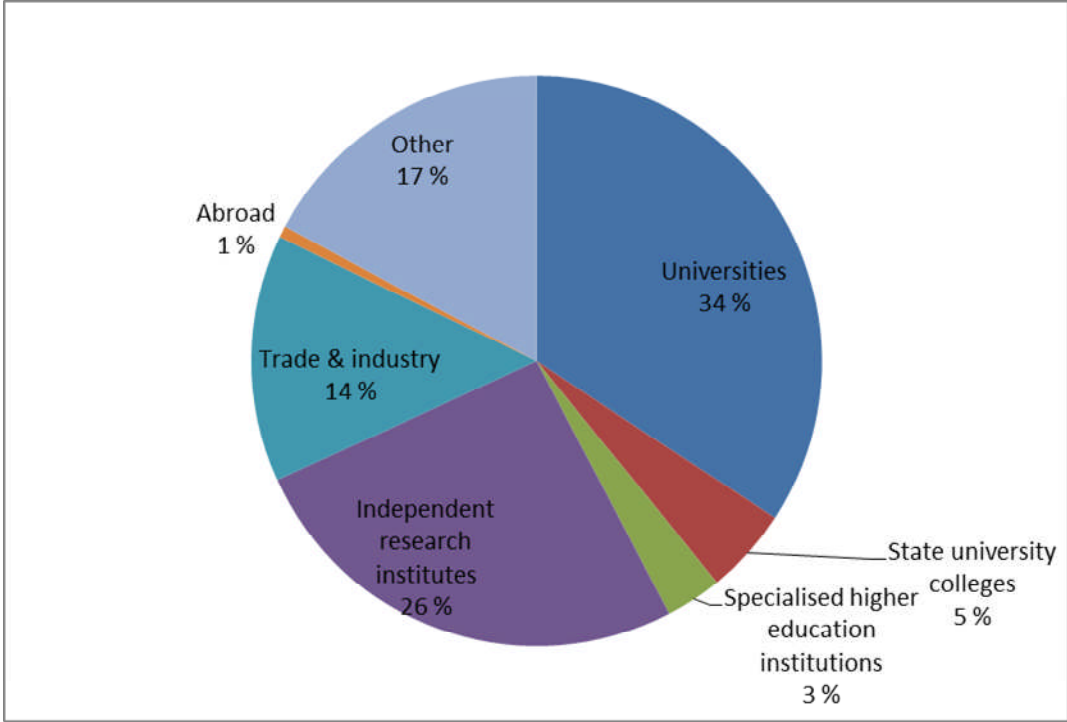
The grant applications that were awarded allocations have approximately the same distribution among the subject fields as the total number of grant applications received.

Figure 16. Number of grant applications awarded allocations in 2009, by subject field.



The figure below shows the distribution of the grant applications that received allocations among the various types of institutions/sectors.

Figure 17. Number of grant applications awarded allocations in 2009, by type of institution/sector.



Together, the universities and university colleges accounted for 42 per cent of the grant applications that received allocations, while the universities alone accounted for 34 per cent.



The Research Council of Norway
P.O. Box 2700 St. Hanshaugen
NO-0131 Oslo

Telephone: +47 22 03 70 00
Telefax: +47 22 03 70 01
post@rcn.no
www.rcn.no

Cover design: Design et cetera AS

Oslo, January 2011