Anonymous 6/20/2025

RSE SW - How can Universities / or Research centres support RSEs to deliver and share better research software?

Context: REF 2029 will have a greater emphasis on the research environment and will also include software and data pipelines as research outputs and the UKRI is currently consulting on its research data policy (which includes research code and data pipelines). How can institutions support their RSEs in this endeavour and how can funders and the UKRI policy support this?

What support does your institution already provide to help you DEVELOP research software?

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Anonymous 6/23/25 10:35AM
Embedded RSEs

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:39AM
Scientific software stack (Linux environment with maintained packages, tools, etc.)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:39AM
Training

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:40AM
Training, free help desk, costed ds/RSEs

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:40AM
Suitable infrastructure (free at point of use or low cost)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:41AM
Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:41AM
It directly funds this activity

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:41AM
Drop in and surgery sessions for git, cluster/hpc scheduling. Advice without making an appointment

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
Access to git copilot through academia

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
Central team to manage cloud infrastructure

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:46AM
Large team to lean on varying expertise, pull requests, and paired programming

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:47AM
Technical meetings where projects are discussed and others can contribute their ideas for ways forwards

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:47AM
Team journal club to discuss anything and everything, from diversity in our career to vibe coding!

What support does your institution provide to help you SHARE your research software?

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Anonymous 6/23/25 10:36AM
We generally use GitHub so an external service

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:38AM
Guidance on submitting to e.g. Zenodo.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:39AM
It seems everyone has their own GitHub, so quite informal.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
reuquirement to use git or similar to sustainably share software

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
Is there a need for anything other than GitHub? Guidance? (What about repositories eg Zenodo?)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
There is some policy in place around open source and other licensing/intellectual property considerations, though it is still rather complex.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
Research Data Storage Facility.... but nothing else specific

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:44AM
For developing industry-interfacing sensitive code, the University gave us a private virtual machine for a GitLab instance

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:45AM
GitHub

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:45AM
JASMIN is a really valuable resource for providing a widely accessible compute and storage platform.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:46AM
Its doesn't. have but should have a central code repository, similar to that it has for data

How can universities or research centres (or UK research funders) support RSEs to develop and deliver better research software?

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Anonymous 6/23/25 10:37AM
Funding and help with recruitment!

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:40AM
Funding for running training

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:40AM
Code buddying

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:41AM
Costed RSEs, training

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:41AM
Clear and set ways for deploying applications (for web apps)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
DevOps infrastructure: VCS, CI/CD. Purchased or managed in house.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
recognise that RSE is part of modern research infrastructure and approach fund from that standpoint

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
don't think just of hardware! Put people and software higher up in the priority

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
Easy access to flexible compute infrastructure for developing and running services (cloud, VMs, etc.)

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
Collaborative culture and joint trouble shooting

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:44AM
better space for publishing datasets (or even dummy datasets) to attach to code and software

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:44AM
More funding calls for software tools with long term maintenance included

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:44AM
Well-defined RSE/RIE career pathways with long-term funding and progression opportunities

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:44AM
Fund training courses. For example Coursera.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:45AM
Much better infrastructure (esp. self service) with no silo'd teams and more modern, efficient processes. Essentially supporting modern software development practices.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:46AM
Institutional support for Git services, licensed Github and also internal Gitlab.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:47AM
PIs that value good code, and it is rewarded in the same value as papers. PIs that know about good code.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:48AM
Long term strategy, clear policy, good process

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:48AM
Better process and access for choosing infrastructure options for projects.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:50AM
Clear processes of how to work as an rse (project plan etc), as well as clear terms of reference for working with PIs.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:52AM
having a strategy!

How can institutions (or UK funders) support RSEs to SHARE and EXTEND THE USE and IMPACT of their research software?

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Anonymous 6/23/25 10:38AM
Better guidelines for code attached to papers

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:40AM
Standardised guidance on how to apply DOIs to software artefacts as outputs of research projects.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
Writing workshops for explaining code

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:42AM
Impactful code is high quality and maintained, and stable enough to be relied on. Managers and funders to encourage this

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
recognise the value of this in papers, reports, REF and the like

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:43AM
Involve rses in understanding needs for the project at the point of grant proposal

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:45AM
Funding model that supports ongoing support / maintenance of software beyond the initial delivery.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:46AM
Clear guidance on copyright and open source licensing for software artefacts generated by research projects. Often this is ambiguous.

Anonymous 6/23/25 10:46AM
Taking the open access movement further with a focus on free/open source software.

How can RSEs make their RSE outputs / research visible to their institution (e.g. for REF29, or your centre funders)

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> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:37AM
> Universities need to encourage people to submit software to REF. In the last one there was only about 4 software submissions out of 100s of thousands total submissions.

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:39AM
> Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS)

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:39AM
> Support journals which promote and publish open source software

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:41AM
> https://github.com/citation-file-format/citation-file-format

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:41AM
> There needs to be a way to get credit for updates and maintaining research software.

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:43AM
> let them have Pure profiles!

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:44AM
> try to get mentions in academic papers - co-authorship

> **Anonymous** 6/23/25 10:44AM
> Isn't this really a question for the institutions / funding bodies to answer? Whatever it is, it should be as simple for RSEs to fulfil as possible.

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