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# RESEARCH SOFTWARE AT EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

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## ECA RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- Large and highly diverse school
- Design, sonic and visual arts increasingly producing code
  - VR/AR, wearables, design with data, IoT
- Funders love blockchain
- More follow-on grants
- EFI/DDI mean more collaboration

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## TRADITIONALLY…

- 'Developer' RA costed into grant

- Limited support from technology staff pre-award

- PI may not be aware of…

  - Required skillset

  - Sustainability, ongoing support requirements

  - Existing resources

  - Realistic costs

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## WHICH CAN LEAD TO...

- 'The disappearing postdoc'

- Badly matched skillsets

- Orphaned code and services

- No recognition or stability for RSEs

- Missed opportunities for sharing / re-use of code and data

- Frequent 're-bootstrapping'

## WE WOULD LIKE…

- Pre-award framework to identify RSE/Technologist requirements

- Large and diverse pool of RSE resource

  - ECA, CAHSS, EPCC …

- Appropriate resource identified and realistically costed

- Strong links with RSE community, college technology team

- Common approaches/methods where appropriate

- Sustainability built-in

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## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- RSEs usually now identified and managed via technology team
    - Some 'research-y', some 'developer-y'
    - Appropriate PD opportunities
    - Standard onboarding process
- Standard JDs, highlighting sustainability and software management
- Making good use of
    - CAHSS DI team
    - Institutional resources (eg gitlab)
- RSE project to investigate shared approaches, methods, tools
- Discussions around sharing RSE resource between projects

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# WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continue to forge links with RSE community

- Library of good practice integrated into onboarding

- Cross-CAHSS co-operation

- Working with SMEs

- Retain our excellent RSEs

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