

SENATE

Title of paper: NUCoRE Annual Report 2025-26

Main purpose of the paper: Annual account of NUCoREs, for information

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Purpose of the paper

This paper provides short summaries of a selection of developments and achievements of the NUCoRE portfolio in 2025-26.

Relation to strategy and values

NUCoREs are a transformative initiative in the 2018 research strategy

Recommendations:

For information only.

Consultation to date (including any previous committee consideration and its outcome):

Executive Board, 23 June 2026

NUCoRE Report 2025-26

June 2026

One new NUCoRE was established in 2025-26, the **Centre for Food Systems**. Hosted by HaSS, it is led by Jane Midgely (APL, HaSS) and Yit Arn Teh (SNES, SAgE). The mission of this NUCoRE is to co-produce real-world solutions to complex Food Systems challenges and conduct leading-edge research through meaningful collaborations with cross-sectoral partners.

One NUCoRE has completed the renewal process in 2025-26, with the Centre for Healthier Lives NUCoRE now renamed the **Centre for Human Nutrition and Exercise Research**. The revitalised NUCoRE has synergies with the newly established Centre for Food Systems, but will be focussing on food intake, nutritional status, diet and diet related disease, diet in disease management and exercise science.

Notable NUCoRE achievements this year include:

Centre for Ageing – re-launched with a refreshed vision, as approved by UEB as part of successful renewal bid in 2025. NUAGE will be crucial to engagement with NICA in its next phase

Centre for AI Safety – agreement in principle from Lenovo to establish a Joint National AI Safety Lab, providing state-of-the-art AI hardware with a minimum investment of £200,000.

Centre for Biomedical Engineering - Marie Sklodowska Curie Staff Exchange- HORIZON-MSCA-2025- REVICAN (REstoring Vision via native-Code-Aligned Neurostimulation).

Centre for Cancer - the ground-breaking event for the Sir Bobby Robson Institute took place in April. SBRI is a £30M state of the art clinical cancer research facility at the Freeman Hospital for the patients of North East England. The Institute will be home to clinical cancer researchers from across Newcastle Hospitals Trust and Newcastle University, and is expected to open in late 2027.

Centre for Children and Youth - YouthFocusNE - working with YouthFocusNE to develop strategies for embedding the perspectives of children and young people within the work of the NUCoRE.

Centre for Climate and Environmental Resilience - hosted a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing film, attended by 110 people including staff, students, members of the public and representatives from external organisations.

Centre for Cyber Security and Resilience - participation in Engineering Biology for Environmental Applications Doctoral Focal Award (EngBio4Env), providing 52 PhD studentships.

Centre for Energy - participation in Project Volt, awarded £500,000 from Ofgem's Strategic Innovation Hub to strengthen energy resilience for critical North East sites.

Centre for Heritage - centre member Dora Merai is lead on the €3,493,346.32 Horizon grant HeritageCircle.

Centre for Industrial Biotechnology - secured a NUPacT fellow, 50% funded by Procter and Gamble.

Centre for Landscape - the landscape expertise of members of the Centre lies at the core of new interdisciplinary developments in teaching and learning, e.g. MSc in Data Science and Digital Humanities, launching September 2026.

Centre for Researching Cities – hosting the Urban Ground symposium at the Farrell Centre, bringing together academic colleagues and external partners around questions of socio-ecological justice, creative infrastructures, health and community life.

Centre for Transformative Neuroscience - Queen Elizabeth Prize for research in dementia with Lewy Bodies.

Centre for Water - Memorandum of Collaboration with Mykolaiv Water Hub, University of Rivne and University of Maryland: developing online CPD for new water professionals in Ukraine.