University of Cambridge – Research Operations Office

VAT flowchart – which VAT code shall I use on CUFS for Research & Studentship funds & income?

This flowchart should only be used where the University is undertaking research (see Note 1), including studentships, where the project meets the research definition.
1 Definition of research: https://www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies/frascati-definition-research

2 A genuine donation for VAT purposes constitutes the free giving of funds by the Sponsor for research that is for the public good, without receiving any benefit in return.

Benefits include:
- any form of IP license (exclusive or not, even if only for internal development purposes);
- any option to negotiate the same; or
- the research results, while owned by the University or made publicly available, provide a direct commercial benefit to the Sponsor (for example insights developed during the research help to improve a product sold by the Sponsor).
- An obligation to use the logo of the sponsor on publications or other dissemination activity.

Acknowledging the source of funding is not a benefit.

3 The Sponsor is UK based if their registered office address or principal base of business (used in the contract) is in the UK.

If not UK based but a UK branch is most closely connected with the research (for example the research results will be received and utilised by that branch), the Sponsor is deemed to be UK based.

4 A tangible or operational benefit is given if:
- The research results are not disseminated or made publicly available;
- If not undertaken by UCAM, the sponsor would have to undertake the activity; or
- the research output improves the operations of the Sponsor.

Operational benefits for government departments includes the development of new technology that improves or aids military capabilities (durability of materials, new modelling techniques, research on lasers or radio waves in a military application, etc), but also research that is aimed at improving the efficiency of government operations or tries to evaluate policy outcomes with an aim to improve these (for example research into re—offending rates of prisoners that had undergone a new rehabilitation programme).
Flowchart B – UCAM does not contract directly with the Prime Sponsor

1. **Start**
2. **Is the Prime Sponsor a commercial entity?**
   - **YES**: Is the Prime Sponsor making a genuine donation (Note 2)?
     - **YES**: Does the entity UCAM contracts with have more onerous IP terms than required by the Prime Sponsor?
     - **NO**: Is UCAM or the PI a joint applicant for the funding or referenced in the prime award as a collaborator (or subsequently added and acknowledged by the Prime Sponsor)?
6. **NO**: Is the Prime Sponsor another charity (including University), government department/agency, Research Council or healthcare authority?
   - **YES**: Refer to tax team
8. **NO**: Is the Prime Sponsor another charity (including University), government department/agency, Research Council or healthcare authority?
   - **NO**: Refer to tax team
10. **NO**
11. **NO**
12. **NO**
13. **NO**
14. **NO**
15. **YES**: Is the party UCAM contracts with UK-based (Note 3)?
16. **NO**: RS – Rest of World Services
17. **NO**: 20.0 – Standard Rate
18. **YES**: OS – Outside Scope
19. **YES**: 20.0 – Standard Rate