

Interest Group activities in 2019

A digest of the reported Interest Group activities of 2019.

The Royal Society of Chemistry has 71 Interest Groups; many RSC members are members of at least one Interest Group. All of our Interest Groups carry out activities for the general advancement of chemical science in their subject area by the dissemination of knowledge, and are required to submit an Annual Report detailing these activities each year.

What is the Annual Report?

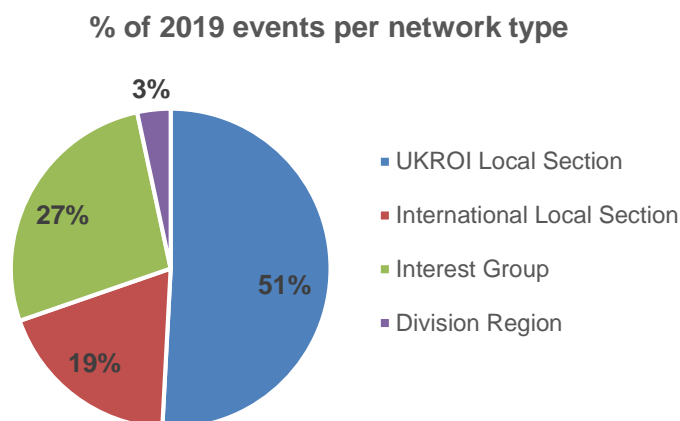
The Annual Report is a report on the activities of the network during the past year and enables RSC staff to measure and quantify the reach and impact of these member networks. The information in the Annual Report is used:

- to promote to existing and potential members the breadth and quality of our community-led activities,
- to identify common challenges to develop bespoke training and resources for our committees, and
- to demonstrate and report how our grants and networks are contributing to our charitable aims.

Overview of 2019 Annual Report data

110 of 136 Annual Reports were received, reporting almost 600 member network events in 2019 attended by approximately 48,000 people.

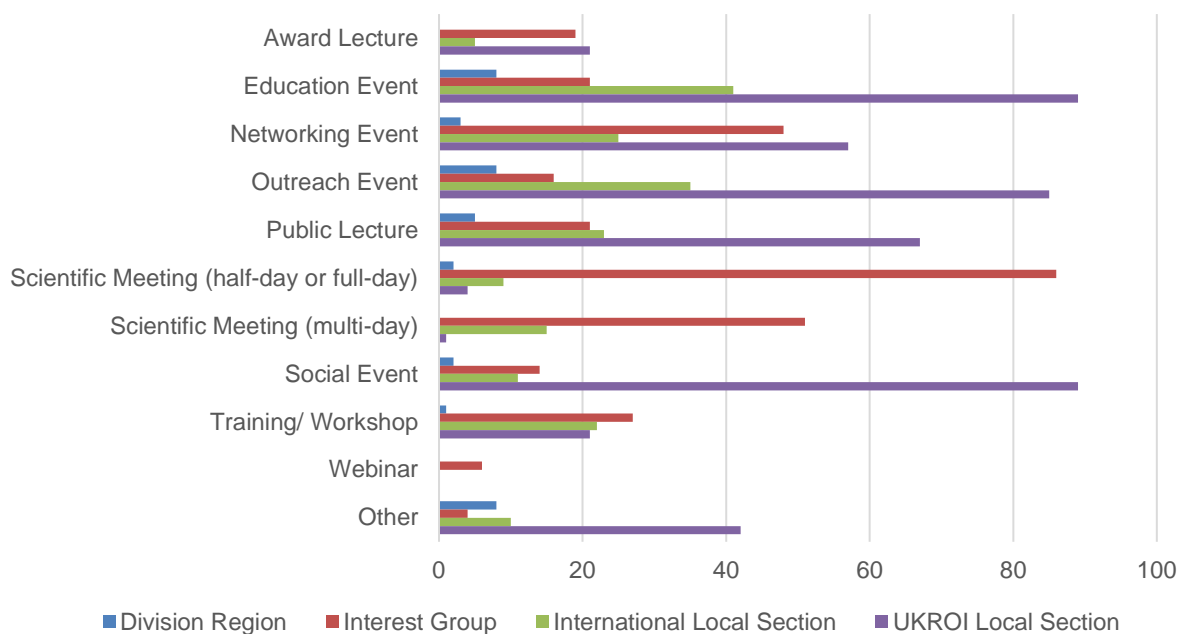
More than half (51%) of all reported 2019 activities were organised by Local Sections and almost one in 5 (19%) of all member network events was organised by an international Local Section, catering to over 15,000 people in 11 countries outside of the UK and Ireland.



Our Local Sections plan events and activities to support RSC members in their local area; a large proportion of these are social and networking events to bring members together. Our Local Sections are also essential for helping us to fulfil our purpose of advancing excellence in the chemical sciences on a local level; they organise education and outreach activities for students and members of the public in the local community.

Most Interest Group events are scientific meetings and conferences to aid in their purpose of advancing their subject by the dissemination of knowledge. In 2019 our 71 Interest Groups held 86 half- or full-day scientific meetings and 51 multi-day meetings, catering to over 10,000 attendees. Many Interest Groups also offered bespoke networking and training opportunities for their members.

Different events per member network type



Financial support offered in 2019

Our Interest Groups and Local Sections awarded 193 grants and bursaries and sponsored 53 events in 2019.

Our Interest Groups sponsored and supported 28 conferences and meetings (in addition to the ones they organised), and offered over £50,000 in Travel Grants to support 136 members to attend national and international conferences.

Highlights of 2019

We asked all member networks to tell us about their best event of 2019. 34 Interest Groups responded with descriptions of highly successful conferences and collaborations, some key highlights included:

- The Toxicology Group biomonitoring meeting provided a welcome opportunity for the UK biomonitoring community to meet and **share recent findings and good practice** and a JISC group has evolved as a result.
- For the Food Group, Plastics from Cradle to Grave and Resurrection was their best event based on high **attendance and attendee feedback**, which led to a second event planned for June 2020. The subject matter was also **highly relevant to current and future challenges** to food sectors and the environment.
- The Photophysics & Photochemistry joint meeting with the Italian Photochemistry Group was an excellent event that received good feedback from those attending. This was the first time that the PPG had run a **joint event with an equivalent national group from overseas**. It was agreed by both groups that it was a success – initial discussions about a reciprocal meeting in the UK in 2022 have begun.
- The Theoretical Chemistry Group highlighted their graduate student meeting as their "best" event, but not for the reason we expected. In short, this meeting gave the committee a direct insight that they **needed to be much more pro-active in attaining gender balance** at events going forwards. This has changed how the committee plan this event and will be a priority for TCG events organised from 2020 onwards.
- The Consultancy Group Networking Meeting provided an opportunity for Consultants to meet and discuss **matters peculiar to the workings of a small consultancy business**. Expert speakers also provided an insight into important issues such as GDPR and Tax concerns.