

ARMS Conference 2025 Travel Grant Write-Up

The ARMS Conference 2025 marked my first participation in an international ARMS event and proved to be a truly eye-opening experience. While volunteering with the local ARMS–SG Chapter had previously exposed me to research management functions within the local context, attending this international conference offered a broader and more enriching perspective.

My key takeaway was the striking similarity in the scenarios and challenges faced by research managers worldwide. For example, Federation University’s presentation on approaches to ensuring compliance with research integrity initiatives strongly resonated with me. It reminded me of my early days as a research manager, particularly the efforts required to ensure completion of mandatory research integrity training and the subsequent development of automated processes to reduce administrative burden on staff. Similar system-based automation efforts were also shared by the University of New South Wales and closely aligned with my own poster presentation, which highlighted the need for system-driven solutions to meet compliance requirements related to researcher training.

On the final day, one particularly intriguing session featured a university that had implemented a rotation system within its Research Office, allowing junior staff to gain exposure across different research management functions. This approach enables staff to better understand how their roles integrate with downstream processes and to view the research lifecycle from multiple perspectives. The session underscored the importance of cross-departmental collaboration and mentorship, highlighting the role of teamwork in ensuring that all facets of research operate cohesively.

Overall, the conference reinforced the commonalities in research management functions across institutions while offering valuable insights into potential improvements that could foster a more integrated and cohesive research lifecycle. It also provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with and learn from fellow research managers from the local Chapter, an opportunity that is often limited amid the demands of day-to-day work.