

Research Strategy

Purpose and Scope of Strategy

The Research Strategy contributes to the achievement of the University Vision by aiming to deliver research of national and international importance that addresses the challenges of our time, and by providing research-informed programmes of study.

This strategy sets out how the development of our research activity and profile will produce research, scholarship, and knowledge exchange which is inspiring, nationally and internationally recognised as a catalyst for positive change for individuals and communities and which informs our academic and vocational programmes.

This strategy acts as a reference point and provides a basis to ensure that research contributes fully to the University's objectives, and Departmental plans.

Objectives

For Individuals:

By 2025 we will have successfully:

- I1. grown research capability and capacity of our staff and increased the number of research students.
- I2. established a strong research and employer informed-teaching nexus within the University's academic portfolio

For Communities:

By 2025 we will have successfully:

- C4. linked research to wider societal challenges and responsibilities to benefit local, national, and international communities.

For Economies:

By 2025 we will have successfully:

- E1. demonstrated an impact and influence on culture, society and the economy through knowledge exchange and the application of research beyond the academic community

Strategy

Our core commitment is to grow the quantity and quality of our research in focussed areas to become a more research informed institution, by raising the level and ambition of our research activities, nationally and internationally.

Our research will inform our activity, be it teaching, consultancy, innovation or knowledge transfer. It will be shaped by our civic engagement and by our relationships with our regional, national and international stakeholders. It will address the societal issues of interest to our stakeholders with a commitment to ensuring the existence of a sustainable research culture.

Research will be undertaken in all our Academic Departments, with each focusing on particular areas of strength and excellence. Each will prioritise work

that is relevant to academic communities, to the wider interests of business, the public sector and the third-stream sector. Our outputs will have impact on society, the economy and cultural activity and, most importantly, will enrich the taught and postgraduate research programmes of the institution.

Each Academic Department will be expected to develop research activities appropriate to its disciplines, and contribute fully to this agenda, whilst recognising that the amount and nature of research will vary between disciplines.

Many of the actions set out in the strategy depend upon the development of research groups, departments and individuals. The research strategy overlaps with strategies for engagement, business and enterprise, estates, human resources, finance, library and information technology.

The principles behind this strategy, which will inform enabling strategies and Departmental plans, are:

- grow a research community that recognises the importance of developing new researchers and provides support to allow our colleagues and research students to achieve their maximum potential.
- ensure that our academic portfolio is informed by high quality research, and ensure all students experience an academic culture that is vital and challenging.
- ensure the use of the institutional repository to meet the challenges of the accessibility and availability of our research to our local, regional, national, and international audiences.
- support early career staff and postgraduate research students by having a Graduate School environment that provides quality research training and skills development.
- encourage interdisciplinary approaches to applied research by ensuring that inter-departmental projects are facilitated through our research leads and professoriate.
- grow our productive partnerships in research with other universities, research based institutions, stakeholders and business, regionally, nationally and internationally, with small and medium enterprises, industry, government departments and non-government organisations.
- broaden the ethos of academic enquiry and knowledge creation in all Departments to create a sustainable research base over a period of 10 years.

Key contacts

- Deputy Vice Chancellor
- Director of Research