

Strategic Aims

1. To sharpen our focus: We will deliver world-class research that is challenged by prioritising our endeavours and investments in areas where we can be internationally competitive. This continuing process will build on our strengths, develop growing areas, and anticipate emerging opportunities.

2. To deliver high-quality and impactful research: We will continually raise the quality of our research outputs, embedding impact throughout the research life cycle, and measure our progress and competitiveness in the sector through the Research Excellence Framework (REF) outcomes. Our research will inform our teaching to challenge and inspire, and will create a talent pipeline of future researchers.

Through enhancing our research capabilities we aim to provide transformative solutions to global challenges, and we will sustain our research efforts by capturing more and larger funding opportunities, exploiting our intellectual property and intensifying research commercialisation.

3. To nurture excellent researchers: We will attract, support, develop and empower a diverse community of talented researchers and research students, enabling them to deliver world-leading research and innovation. We will foster a research environment that is inspiring, intellectually challenging, inclusive, collegiate, and promotes collaboration.

4. To engage externally and to build partnerships: We will foster existing relationships and build new strategic partnerships with research organisations, charities, the public sector, and industry to strengthen our research and enterprise endeavours. We will drive interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to shape research with significant cultural, economic and societal impact. We will influence and shape policy and practice by ensuring that our researchers represent the University on national and international funding organisations.

5. To enhance research infrastructure and to simplify processes: We will invest in new facilities and optimise use of existing infrastructure in line with our priorities. We will ensure internal processes are efficient and research support services are of the highest quality.



University of Hull Vision

Motivated by society's challenges and inspired by the power of our global community, we are shaping a fairer, brighter and carbon neutral future.

Get in touch to find out more about how we can facilitate your research.

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Research Strategy



Introduction

The University of Hull has a proud heritage of academic excellence and a track record of delivering innovative and impactful research, spanning local, national, and global concerns.

Our past achievements have been impressive but do not guarantee future success. The purpose of this Research Strategy is to enable and empower all our researchers to carry out excellent research that competes at an international level and delivers impacts of benefit to society.

It outlines a research agenda that will ensure the University of Hull continues to grow in stature, reputation and influence. This strategy builds upon the research priorities set out in the University's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and is complementary to the University Education Strategy to ensure seamless delivery of our vision for academic excellence that empowers people to shape the future.

Research Vision

Our vision for research is to be an outstanding research university, securely placed in the top 50 UK universities for research, with a focus on achieving significant increases in research quality and income.

With a research-led mission, the University will strive for excellence in all research activities and ensure that our research makes a distinctive impact. The University research community uphold the principles of integrity, diversity, and inclusivity in all of its activities.

This will be achieved through bold and decisive steps, prioritisation of resources, enhancing our research community, investing in our organisational support structures and infrastructure, and gaining financial sustainability. We will empower our researchers to be at the forefront of current and future challenge-led research. Encouraging collaborative working, an interdisciplinary approach, and developing talent will be the key factors in our success.

Our research will continue to inform our teaching and underpin a culture of scholarship of teaching and learning within our University community. The University of Hull will be an organisation where world-leading researchers want to work, partners want to engage, and research students want to study.

Key Objectives

To achieve our strategic aims, we have identified a number of objectives and actions, which will be supported by a Research Strategy Implementation Plan. To achieve the objectives, support will be provided by the University Leadership Team, Faculties, Research Institutes, Schools, Graduate School, Research and Enterprise and other professional services as appropriate. We will:

Sharpen our focus by:

- I. Attracting and recruiting excellent researchers to sustain or expand research priority areas.
- II. Focussing internal resources and strategic investments, such as PhD scholarships and research priming funds, on our research priority areas.
- III. Supporting interdisciplinary research and collaborative approaches that create novel insights and address key regional, national and global challenges.
- IV. Understanding the competitive landscape through effective market and funder intelligence to identify opportunities for growth and investment.
- V. Continuously reviewing performance against the sector and divesting from areas that are underperforming.



Deliver high-quality and impactful research by:

- I. Ensuring that all independent researchers are continually producing excellent research outputs (equivalent to 3* or 4* in REF).
- II. Securing funding for longer, larger grants as well as supporting ambitious, collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects.
- III. Enhancing the resilience of our research portfolio by diversifying our funding sources both nationally and internationally.
- IV. Generating impact with reach and significance beyond the institution and embedding impact throughout the research life cycle.
- V. Providing research development and impact support to help maximise potential, drive ambition, identify partners and secure the funding to achieve our research goals.
- VI. Ensuring that our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are informed by excellent research and actively creating a talent pipeline for future researchers.

Nurture excellent researchers by:

- I. Attracting, supporting, training and developing researchers from all backgrounds at all stages in their careers.
- II. Ensuring researchers have the capacity to carry out excellent research, and that workload models are effective in providing time for research.
- III. Developing and supporting research leaders through mentoring, training and coaching.
- IV. Recognising and rewarding excellence in research and innovation.
- V. Embedding robust peer review and support procedures for research applications, outputs and impacts to raise the quality of our research.
- VI. Promoting a vibrant research culture which values inclusivity, diversity, respect and integrity.
- VII. Ensuring robust procedures to drive our diversity and inclusion agenda, to enhance a culture of equality.

Engage externally and build partnerships by:

- I. Providing support to stimulate and facilitate external engagement.
- II. Identifying opportunities for collaborative funding and co-investment.
- III. Participating in strategic partnerships and networks.
- IV. Strengthening our relationships locally, nationally and internationally with government, NGOs, public and private organisations to strategically align with and influence their priorities through collaborative research and consultancy.
- V. Communicating clearly about our capabilities, successes and innovative research.
- VI. Developing and embedding a public engagement strategy.
- VII. Encouraging researchers to represent the University and influence research policy on a national and international level.

Enhance research infrastructure and simplify processes by:

- I. Investing in the facilities, equipment and technical staff necessary to deliver on our ambition.
- II. Securing external investment for research infrastructure.
- III. Optimising the effectiveness of our research systems, processes and governance to reduce unnecessary administration and to provide access to tools for benchmarking.
- IV. Ensuring professional services are agile, flexible and connected in their support for research and researchers.
- V. Continuing support for open access and research data management.
- VI. Complying with the Concordats to which we are signatories.