

Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange (RS&KE) Strategy

As part of the new Strategic Plan for the University one of the 5 pillars is to “**Engage in Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange which has impact on societal challenges**”. This pillar is underpinned by five strategic objectives, as detailed below, to achieve this plan:

Strategic Objective 1: Engage in excellent research & scholarship (R&S), and knowledge exchange (KE) activities which underpin our teaching and our contribution to the region.

- We will work to create an inclusive, supportive and positive research culture and environment to engage and thrive in R&S and KE activities.
- We will seek to maintain an appropriate balance of emphasis between research & scholarship, and teaching & learning (T&L) within our current workload allocation.
- We will engage in curriculum development and enquiry-based learning & teaching influenced by Scholarship and Research-led culture.
- We will undertake research, scholarship, and KE activities in accordance with the high professional standards to ensure that it is robust and accords with rigorous ethical values. This includes Reproducibility of our research and Open Research initiatives.
- We will strive to achieve research and scholarship which is relevant and significant at a global level, even when it is geographically focused at a regional or national location.

Strategic Objective 2: Foster interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge creation and exchange by supporting institutional themes of enquiry.

- We will develop beacons of Research Excellence focusing upon identified themes on which to build Hope's reputation.
- We will review our Research Centres, whilst seeking to foster and develop emerging areas of research excellence, and we will focus on activities and actions to build the external partnerships and income streams that will enable these centres to flourish.
- We will continue to support and develop collaborative research across schools and departments, and with external partners, in order to respond more effectively to multi- and interdisciplinary initiatives, and research priorities, locally, nationally or globally.
- We will establish appropriate infrastructure and services to underpin collaborations and partnerships and ensure these are effective in supporting, developing and promoting inter- and multi-disciplinary research including doctoral supervision, internships, placements and knowledge-exchange.

Strategic Objective 3: Scale-up external funding for our research and support innovation to increase our capacity to seek solutions to the challenges facing society.

- We will identify and engage with a wider range of funding sources, including public and private, charity and voluntary sectors. We will develop relationships with potential funders and tailor proposals to their specific interests and priorities.
- We will pursue opportunities for knowledge-exchange with industrial, commercial, public sector and other partners, to enable them to benefit from our research capabilities, innovations, intellectual property and other knowledge assets so as to enable us to establish pathways to, and realisation of, impact of our research.
- We will undertake research to advance core disciplines, innovate and find new and important areas to push knowledge boundaries, through the introduction of new ideas, insights and methods, for intellectual, social, technological and economic benefit.
- We will seek to ensure that our research has impact beyond academia by engaging with, and influencing, people and organisations in order to make a positive contribution to society.
- We will enhance the societal and cultural impact of our research, scholarship, and KE by fostering increased engagement with policy-makers, public bodies, foundations, industrial and private sectors, as well as by developing and supporting student and staff public engagement and enterprise activities in collaboration with local partners.

Strategic Objective 4: Ensure effective support for researchers is in place and is appropriate for different academic career stages.

- We will invest in and Staff and Researcher Development programme to support colleagues at all stages in their research career – from early career researcher through mid-career to the Professoriate – through an integrated programme of training, mentoring and development opportunities.
- We will continue to invest in research infrastructure and facilities; and ensure that in future support and development of research activity is integral to university's digital strategies and sustainability plans.
- We will strive to attract high-calibre doctoral students, offering an excellent research student experience through in-house Research and Inquiry Training Programs. To further expand our research student body, we will enhance promotion efforts, explore various external funding sources for studentships, and ensure our recent strategic internal investment in the VC scholarship program yields successful results.
- We will develop infrastructure and services to support research students and staff involved in the delivery of high-quality Postgraduate Research (PGR) Training Programmes to ensure our research students have opportunities for training and development for a variety of future career pathways.
- We will increase the number of post-doctoral and research assistants through our success in external research funding.

Strategic Objective 5: Support partnerships between researchers, with external organisations and with students as a way of building our research impact, capacity and critical mass.

- We will foster a collaborative research culture by promotion of interdisciplinary research and peer-review within the institution, encouraging researchers to form partnerships with each other and across departments to leverage diverse expertise.
- We will engage external stakeholders, actively seek and nurture partnerships with external organizations, including industry, government agencies, non-profits, and community groups, to bridge academia and real-world applications, facilitating impactful research.
- We will create opportunities for students to actively participate in research projects, providing them with hands-on experience and supporting their engagement in the research process, thereby contributing to building research capacity and critical mass.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

1. **Significantly increase external funding for our Research and KE work over a 5-year period:** Increase external funding by 50% annually from a baseline of £200K to £1m in 5 years.
2. **Demonstrate the impact and engagement of our work by Enhancement in our KEF profile:** Increase in our activities to feed into the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey (HE-BCI) returns and impacting on increase in our Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) income. This should contribute to enhancement in our KEF perspectives achieving cluster above average/upper-quintile. To achieve this Hope's KEF profile to move from Lower Quintile to Medium and Higher Quintiles in "Cluster M" in at least 3 of the 7 perspectives.
3. **Enhancement in our REF profile by achieving an overall GPA of 2.8+ (from 2.52 in REF2021):** Creation and promotion of a research culture and ecosystem within the University to achieve an overall GPA in excess of 2.8.
4. **Increase in PGR numbers, enhancement of student satisfaction, and high-completion rate:** Enhanced PGR student satisfaction and critical mass, including percentage of international postgraduate research students, and percentage of on-time PGR completions.