

Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange Strategy and Plan

2017-20

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Version Control History

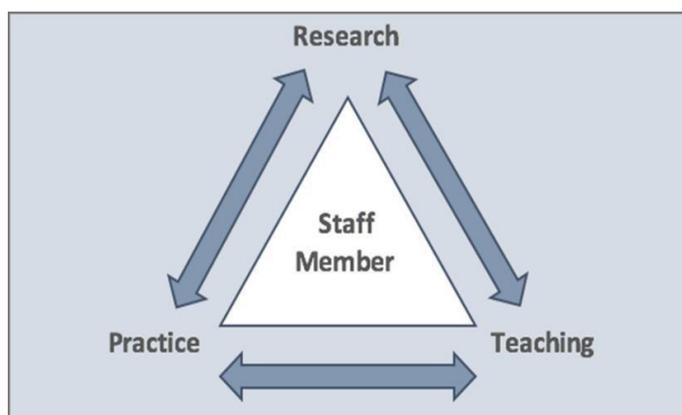
| Version Number | Date of Change | Summary of Revisions Made |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | August 2012 | Version with the Enabling Plan removed, published on request from Martin Price 19-Nov-12. Version no etc remain stat. Enabling Plan published separately (password protected Word Doc) in the Strategic Planning Documents Library on the PerthNet Strategy 7 Structure page. |
| 1.1 | July 2016 | Footer updated to reflect new template model. |
| 1.2 | March 2017 | Draft major revision to RSKE Committee including Enabling Plan. |
| 1.3 | January 2019 | Updated footer to Depute Principal, Academic. |

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Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange Strategy

Scope

This document sets out the research, scholarship and knowledge exchange (KE)¹ strategy for Perth College UHI for the period 2017-20. It is the College's aspiration that academic and research staff engaged in HE and FE provision should be engaged in research, scholarship and/or KE activity that is relevant to their role in scope, frequency and focus, either through discipline or engagement in pedagogy related activities.



ref P Oliver 2016

Context

This strategy is informed by the Perth College UHI Vision 2021: Strategic Plan 2016-21, which is also aligned to the UHI Strategic Plan 2015-20. As part of the development of Perth College UHI as a partner within UHI, and as the main tertiary education institution within the city of Perth, the context for our strategy and development also is specifically influenced by developments in Perth City Development Plan and the emerging Tay Cities Bid. The major strategic initiatives in the wider Tayside region seek to develop, regenerate and leverage the economic, educational and innovation potential of the region and beyond. Perth College UHI leads on the theme of Big Move: City of Knowledge and Learning in the Perth City Development Plan with two strands of University City and Skilled Workforce.

Through engagement with these plans, regional skills considerations and areas of expertise, five broad themes have been identified which will provide areas of research and knowledge exchange focus. These areas will be both Interdisciplinary and discipline-specific as appropriate:

- Applied Health and Wellbeing
- Creative Industries
- Sustainability
- Food and Drink Pedagogy

¹ Definitions of these terms are provided in the glossary at the end of the document.

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Perth College UHI will continue to work closely with Subject Networks and Research Clusters to ensure engagement of appropriate staff, students and external contacts to support research themes, interdisciplinary work, and ensure impact and dissemination is maximised as appropriate. We are seeking to build on the staff base from Perth that were submitted to the 2014 REF, and will work with UHI as the submission criteria for 2020 is clarified. The Research Clusters, broadly aligned with the REF Main Panels, are:

Arts and Humanities

Society, Identity, Landscape and Knowledge

Marine, Environmental Science and Engineering

Health and Wellbeing

The UHI Research Strategy is one of focused research: research excellence performance will continue to be developed in targeted areas; we will enhance the experience of research students; ensure effective public engagement and dissemination of research outputs; promote knowledge exchange as an integral part of our wider employer and community engagement plans; and achieve sustainable funding for research and knowledge exchange activities. The existing and developing research strengths are, and will be reflected in the university's curriculum. Research Degree Awarding Powers and REF 2020 submission, will be key areas of development and opportunity across the UHI partnership.

Research Aims: Perth College Strategic Plan 2016-21

The following aims are drawn from the College Strategic Plan as they relate to taking forward research, scholarship and knowledge exchange. The aims are as numbered in the Strategic Plan.

Aim 2: Work in partnership to foster and drive positive change and growth in local, regional, national and international economies.

- 2.2 Be seen as the University in Perth and play a leading role in the further development of communities within the City of Perth and beyond.
- 2.3 Identify and act on opportunities to increase research and development activity that adds value and supports a high skills economy.
- 2.4 Utilise and enhance our engagement with businesses for the benefit of learners through curriculum design, the development of apprenticeships, the exchange of knowledge and opportunities for life-long learning.

Aim 3: Provide dynamic learning and research experiences within a curriculum that meets economic and societal needs and aspirations.

- 3.6 Foster research and scholarship that underpin and feed into our curriculum.

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- 3.7 Enhance our contribution to the Research Excellence Framework, strengthening our reputation and raising our local, national and international profile.

Aim 4: Optimise the sustainable use of our systems, processes and resources to provide the best possible student experience and outcomes.

- 4.5 Increase our consultancy, knowledge transfer and business engagement services and achieve commercial growth in identified key sectors.

Aim 5: Have talented, confident and inspirational staff who contribute to and make a vital difference to the success of students, the life of the College, the University and our communities.

- 5.2 Enhance staff engagement by ensuring effective communication across and between all levels of staff within the College, University and other partners and stakeholders.
- 5.5 Support all staff to develop appropriate skills and qualifications through opportunities for training, scholarship and research.
- 5.6 Build on staff industry-links and ensure appropriate industry engagement and updating for staff.

Delivery

This strategy will be implemented utilising the annual operational planning process to agree priorities and targets, with the Research Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange Committee providing oversight of progress and informing developments. This work will be coordinated through the Chair of the Committee, the Research and Scholarship Coordinator, and the Depute Principal Academic. The development of the operational plan will reflect the context of the wider UHI research developments, support and resources available.

Perth College UHI Balanced Scorecard relevant measures:

Numbers of staff presenting papers at conferences and number of publications.
Number of days spent on CPD a year.
None core funding income.
Number of businesses that engage with Perth College UHI.

UHI Strategic Plan Critical Performance Indicator Focused Research

Non recurrent research income.

Glossary: Definitions of Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange

- 1 **Research** – Carried out by the college at its own behest which may include that instigated as part of, or extension of, either curriculum or project development or consultancy. The outcome of this research may be utilised either internally or externally by any institution – public or private. Some form of remuneration where the outcome is utilised externally is probable.
- 2 **Consultancy** – This encompasses work where the college has carried out some primary research or investigation at the behest of another institution – public or private (cf commissioned research). The research is therefore wholly bespoke and provided as a service to the customer. Some form of remuneration is normal, and is subject to VAT.
- 3 **Research Dissemination** – This encompasses the organisation and delivery of the dissemination of research results with the objective of acting as a catalyst for the exchange of the information. The research disseminated may have been carried out by Perth College or any other party.
- 4 **Commercialisation** – This encompasses the commercialisation of a product developed by Perth College UHI and may involve intellectual property and/or a spinoff company.
- 5 **Scholarship** – Scholarship is activity that updates or maintains the knowledge of an individual; or adds to their skills and experience. The knowledge base already exists elsewhere.
- 6 **Scholarship of Learning and Teaching** – Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) is a growing movement in post-secondary education. SOTL is scholarly inquiry into student learning and pedagogy which advances the practice of teaching by making inquiry findings public through appropriate dissemination.
- 7 **Innovation** – Universities are a key part of the innovation system because of the skills that their graduates bring to the economy, the quality of their research and their ability to generate new ideas, products and processes. All of which has the potential to support business growth and competitiveness. Colleges also have a role to play in stimulating innovation through their close links to business and industry, particularly small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), which are a big part of the economy in Scotland.

Consultancy may involve Knowledge Exchange; Research Dissemination is, by definition, Knowledge Exchange.

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Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange Strategy 2017-20 – Enabling Plan

It is anticipated that all Aims and Actions will work alongside relevant UHI academic and research structures as appropriate

| Aim 2 | Work in partnership to foster and drive positive change and growth in local, regional, national and international economies | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | We will: | Action | By whom? | By when? | Status |
| 2.2 | Be seen as the University in Perth and play a leading role in the further development of communities within the City of Perth and beyond. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve our profile and esteem by organising/hosting research orientated 'town and Gown' events and through our engagement with the Perth City of Culture bid. Improve business engagement by highlighting KE/KT opportunities through interaction with Interface and Innovation Centres. | PO/Principal DG | July 2018 | |
| 2.3 | Identify and act on opportunities to increase research and development activity that adds value and supports a high skills economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage collaborative activities and funding bids. Form five networking groups and leads around key PCUHI themes and relevant links to UHI clusters. Exploit opportunities offered by the Tay Cities Deal and Perth City Development Plan to further develop KE. | LMcl/DG DG/SDDs Principal | July 2018 | |
| 2.4 | Utilise and enhance our engagement with businesses for the benefit of learners through curriculum design, the development of apprenticeships, the exchange of knowledge and opportunities for life-long learning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage staff to develop KE through Innovation Funds and Innovation Vouchers. Increase business engagement to enable more KE. | DG SDDs | July 2018 | |

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| Aim 3 | Provide dynamic learning and research experiences within a curriculum that meets economic and societal needs and aspirations | | | | |
|-------|--|---|--|-----------|--------|
| | We will: | Action | By whom? | By when? | Status |
| 3.6 | Foster research and scholarship that underpin and feed into our curriculum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop research and scholarship activities within curriculum specialisms and industry engagement. • Student/Staff projects and scholarship. • Continue to develop sustainable PGT provision. • Encourage international and national conference attendances/presentations, journal publications and project partnerships. • Increase the PCUHI contribution to the bi-annual UHI Research Conference. | SDDs/Dir SDDs/Dir/PO SDDs/Dir/ DP-AC PO/SDDs/SB PO/SDDs | July 2018 | |
| 3.7 | Enhance our contribution to the Research Excellence Framework, strengthening our reputation and raising our local, national and international profile. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support staff to identify research outputs and become familiar with use of PURE. • Work with UHI to accommodate the budgetary implications of REF developments. • Create a workload output model to support staff in creating REF-able outputs. | PO Principal DP-AC | July 2018 | |

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| Aim 4 Optimise the sustainable use of our systems, processes and resources to provide the best possible student experience and outcomes | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | We will: | Action | By whom? | By when? | Status |
| 4.5 | Increase our consultancy, knowledge transfer and business engagement services and achieve commercial growth in identified key sectors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase consultancy and CPD services for industries identified in RSA, Tay Cities Deal, Perth City Development Plan, RSKE Strategy and 5 key themes. | DG/SDDs/Dir | July 2018 | |
| Aim 5 Have talented, confident and inspirational staff who contribute to and make a vital difference to the success of students, the life of the College, the University and our communities. | | | | | |
| | We will: | Action | By whom? | By when? | Status |
| 5.2 | Enhance staff engagement by ensuring effective communication across and between all levels of staff within the College, University and other partners and stakeholders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMT through RSC role facilitating, mentoring, seminar series, ambassadors (SDD to nominate/area), Research Clusters/networks, RSKE. Work with EO to develop liaisons with grant-giving bodies such as ESRC, SFC, Interface, British Academy. | PO DG/PO/Dir | | |
| 5.5 | Support all staff to develop appropriate skills and qualifications through opportunities for training, scholarship and research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide research related training for staff including MEd modules. Provide research support/Ethics training. Contribute to the development of a potential UHI PhD by publication pending RDAP. | PO/LMcl/LL PO/LL PO/DG | | |

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| | We will: | Action | By whom? | By when? | Status |
|-----|--|---|--|----------|--------|
| 5.6 | Build on staff industry-links and ensure appropriate industry engagement and updating for staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial updating using Med modules eg "Develop potential through placements". • Encourage staff to recognise and apply 'action research' approaches to existing industry links. • Raise awareness of KE/KT opportunities and practice. • Identify specific partnership/mentoring support with those involved in commercialisation projects. | Line Managers DG/SDDs/Dir DG/SDDs/Dir DG/SDDs/Dir | | |

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