1. To sharpen our focus: We will deliver world-class research that is challenge-led 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.

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 practices 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.
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 complements the University Education. It outlines a research agenda that will ensure the University of Hull continues to grow in stature, impact, and status.

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 drive for excellence in all research activities and ensure that our research makes a distinctive impact. The University research community upholds the principles of integrity, diversity, and quality in all its activities.

The University will be an organisation where world-leading researchers want to work, partners and students want to study, and learning within our University community.

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 Leaders Team, Faculties, Research Institutes, Schools, Graduate School, Research and Enterprise and other professional services as appropriate. We will:

- Engage externally and build partnerships by:
  - Providing support to stimulate and facilitate external engagement
  - Identifying opportunities for collaborative funding and co-investment
  - Participating in strategic partnerships and networks
  - Strengthening our relationships locally, nationally and internationally
- Enhance research infrastructure and simplify processes by:
  - Investing in the facilities, engagement and technical staff necessary to deliver our research vision
  - Securing external investment for research infrastructure
  - Optimising the effectiveness of our research systems, processes and governance to reduce unnecessary administration and to provide access to tools for benchmarking

Sharpen our focus by:

- Attracting and recruiting excellent researchers to sustain or expand our research portfolio
- Focusing internal resources and strategic investments, such as PhD scholarships and research priming funds, on our research priority areas
- Supporting interdisciplinary research and collaborative approaches that create novel insights and address key regional, national and global challenges
- Understanding the competitive landscape through effective market research and keywords to identify opportunities for growth and development
- Continuously reviewing performance against the sector and drawing from areas that are underperforming

Deliver high-quality and impactful research by:

1. Ensuring that all independent researchers are continually producing excellent research outputs (equivalent to 3* or 4* in REF)
2. Securing funding for longer, larger grants as well as supporting ambitious, collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects
3. Enhancing the resilience of our research portfolio by diversifying our research priority areas
4. Generating impact with reach and significance beyond the institution and embedding impact throughout the research life cycle
5. Providing research development and impact support to help maximise potential, drive ambition, identify partners and secure the funding to achieve our research goals
6. 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:

1. Attracting, training, and developing research staff from all backgrounds at all stages in their careers
2. Ensuring researchers have the capacity to carry out excellent research, and that their skills are effective in providing time for research
3. Developing and supporting research leaders through mentoring, training and coaching
4. Recognising and rewarding excellence in research and innovation
5. Embedding robust peer review and support procedures for research applications, outputs and impacts to raise the quality of our research
6. Promoting a vibrant research culture which values industry, diversity, respect and integrity
7. Ensuring redundant procedures to drive our diversity and inclusion agenda to enhance a culture of equality