UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STRATEGY 2011-2016

Research is critical to the mission of the University of Lincoln and growth in research capacity and performance is a vital part of our development in the next few years. Research is central to the University’s Strategic Plan 2011-2016, it signifies our commitment to innovation and is fundamental in our approach to supporting and engaging with the economic, social and cultural environment, whether that be locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. We are proud of our diverse research portfolio and we are committed to supporting research excellence, wherever it is found.

Our Research Strategy is based upon a set of guiding values and principles whereby the University will strategically invest in recruiting and retaining the highest quality staff, the most motivated students and provide the rich infrastructure in which research will thrive.

Our guiding principles are to:

1. Support high-quality innovative research, both basic and applied, and to maximise our capacity, reach and impact through collaboration with our strategic partners
2. Contribute to new knowledge on fundamental and strategically important questions of benefit to the wider community
3. Seek appropriate income and invest strategically in our best research
4. Develop a vibrant research culture with the physical infrastructure to facilitate excellent research
5. Engage all our students in understanding the importance of their contribution to research and innovation
6. Value and reward the expertise of our staff and students and help them reach their full research potential

These principles are evidenced through the following key actions:

Supporting high-quality innovative research, both basic and applied, maximising our capacity, reach and impact through collaboration with our strategic partners by:

- Attracting, retaining and rewarding high quality academic research staff able to make a significant contribution to our research profile
- Providing support to staff in enhancing our performance, including in future assessments of our research quality
- Providing high quality research facilities, resources and space
- Supporting the establishment and development of key research centres and groups
- Targeting institutional investment in strategic areas of research
- Identifying key strategic partners to help drive and inform the direction of our research
- Promoting and supporting collaboration to extend the quality and breadth of our research
- Identifying and addressing local and global research challenges in line with our expertise and institutional ambitions
- Developing a framework for co-located research activity with key strategic partners
- Ensuring that all central services are clear of their contribution to research and encouraging regular liaison and dialogue to improve our systems and processes
Creating a dynamic, supportive and sustainable research environment at all levels of the institution by:

- Establishing a vibrant and innovative programme of dialogue, colloquia and debate within and beyond the institution to engage a wide number of stakeholders in research development
- Valuing and enhancing engagement from external expertise, from visiting professors, industry professionals and international partners
- Increasing the proportion of academic staff engaged in high-quality research
- Investing in PGR students, postdoctoral and established researchers through a competitive Research Investment Fund (RIF)
- Providing targeted investment for the support of postdoctoral and early career researchers
- Ensure research mentoring across all academic areas
- Improving the financial sustainability of research, including the diversification of our portfolio of funders, investors and charitable giving
- Implementing the AMS system to act as a tool for costing and project managing our research activities
- Ensuring regular liaison between College and central research team on plans, reporting and management of research projects post award
- Monitoring and providing quality data to support research decision making and our submissions to exercises such as the Research Excellence Framework
- Providing the infrastructure for impact and engagement to be embedded as central elements of the research culture

Establishing opportunities for the progression and professional development of academic careers by:

- Recognising and fostering research development and leadership
- Providing clear opportunities for progression and promotion on a research pathway, including research leave and appropriate workload planning
- Supporting greater peer to peer engagement for the development of personal and group research plans
- Encouraging and enabling uptake of the Lincoln CPPD programme, including opportunities for mentoring, training and further development
- Providing a supportive and active network for the development of our postdoctoral and early career researchers
- Ensuring that the development ambitions of the institution align well with recognised good practice nationally and internationally such as the RCUK and Vitae Concordats, and the Athena Swan Charter

Supporting and developing a vibrant culture and environment for our postgraduate research students by:

- Increasing the numbers of high quality postgraduate research students and ensure they are located within our research centres and groups. Develop the pipeline of PGR students through proper tutoring and support of talented UG and PGT students
- Providing a stimulating and proactive Graduate School and College experience that supports, monitors and improves upon the PGR experience and employability
- Providing central and College level investment in PGR students
- Encouraging and supporting close engagement in external funding opportunities for PGR students wherever possible through RCUK, charitable, European and enterprise sources
- Fostering high quality research skills in our students through Student as Producer and similar schemes
- Ensuring, where appropriate, that our UG and PG curriculum is informed and enriched by current research

Raising the impact, visibility and profile of our research ambitions and outputs by:

- Developing early engagement with all researchers to identify opportunities for their research to have impact
- Supporting the effective dissemination of original and significant research outputs through high quality routes
- Promoting the use of the Lincoln Repository as a key tool for collating and accessing quality research outputs to enhance their accessibility and visibility
- Investing in and supporting impact generation and engagement opportunities
- Providing support for the dissemination of quality research through recognized online and broadcast...
Providing effective management of research data and outputs to chart the quality, reach and visibility of our research

Roles and responsibilities in delivering the Research Strategy
The implementation, enhancement and monitoring of our Research Strategy will be the key responsibility of the DVC (Research), Dean of Research, Director of Research & Enterprise, and the College Directors of Research..

We will measure our success through the following Key Performance Indicators:

Reviewed annually and with agreed targets:
- the quality, range and number of research outputs
- Research income (Range, submission and success - Institution/College/School)
- Income and quality outputs of research institutes centres and groups
- Postgraduate research student numbers and income (Range and type - home/international and completion rates)
- Increase in the supervisory base (numbers/training/observations)
- Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (Performance rate)
- Uptake levels on CPPD
- Number of staff with postdoctoral qualification (In training/completed)