



# The University Research Strategy 2016-2025

## Executive Summary



# A continued commitment to excellence with impact

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Research at the University of Huddersfield has undergone a transformation since our first strategy document was published in 2011. This is thanks to the hard work and excellence of our academic staff, postgraduate researchers, and dedicated support staff.

Our commitment to support for excellent research with impact is undiminished – and this is what will guide our success through the period covered by the next strategic plan.

Our new strategy builds on the strengths in the previous document – we continue along a path which is guided by our need to contribute important advances in human knowledge and significant improvements in global quality of life. As before our strategic research investment embraces interdisciplinary grand challenges and key priorities determined by the users of research and it is sensitive to both the value of discovery and the value of utility. In the period since 2011 there has been no reduction in the scale and complexity of the challenges facing humanity and we continue to aim to facilitate outstanding contributions to our ability to address them.

At the University of Huddersfield we will nurture these contributions within an inclusive and enabling environment that promotes excellence with impact at every level of endeavour. Our approach so far has led to great success, and we will therefore continue to be uncompromising in our commitment to exemplary standards of personal and career development, to proactive and imaginative approaches to equality and diversity, to open access to knowledge, data and expertise, to unimpeachable standards of research ethics, and to enduring national and international partnerships with leaders in the development of creativity and innovation. These increasingly international partnerships are at the foundation of our strategy for the future.

# Investing in people

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We have demonstrated a commitment to investing in the people who carry out world-class research here at Huddersfield, and to supporting those who are early in their careers. Our commitment to building the next generation of researchers is demonstrated through the increasing size of our postgraduate researcher community and our engagement in the development of doctoral training centres. This commitment remains a key part of our strategy.







# The research environment at Huddersfield

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Our staff will be supported throughout their careers to produce research outputs at the highest levels and to use those outputs to achieve their personal goals and to contribute to the ambitions of the University's research strategy.

In support of the research strategy we will help staff to understand how their research is assessed by a diverse range of funding bodies. Workgroups will be established by Research Excellence Framework main panel groupings to help coordinate the activities of Units of Assessment and experts who served on panels during REF2014 will be employed to give the earliest possible advice to each discipline on their research and impact project planning.

Our staff will be encouraged to demand and expect high levels of collegial support, collaboration, and mentoring and to seek such additional provision as they think essential to achieving their goals.

Our aim will be to reach a common level of knowledge and sophistication such that every member of staff will become a

# The research environment at Huddersfield (continued)

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credible nominee for a UK Research Council peer review panel, Research Excellence Framework sub-panel or comparable international review body. In support of this agenda the University will develop champions to set exemplary standards and to ensure that the desired level of culture change is achieved within the shortest possible timescale.

Developing and keeping our talent is the core of vitality and sustainability and further steps will be taken to establish University benchmarks and goals for the development, retention and promotion of excellent researchers in line with the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*.

We will recognise the efforts and contributions of early career researchers and will ensure that effective support plans are in place to allow them to make rapid progress towards achieving their goals. We will make further efforts to ensure that effective training and development opportunities tailored to the specific needs of our researchers are always available, regardless of career stage, appointment type or working pattern.







# Facing outwards – developing strategic partnerships – regional, national, international

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External strategic partnerships strengthen and complement our existing research capabilities. They provide a two-way conduit for access to resources, networks and ideas, and provide a credibility and reputation boost to both parties.

We will continue to develop a structured framework for building new, and for growing existing, relationships with businesses, third-sector organisations, policy-makers and the public. The 3M Buckley Innovation Centre, and the regional, national and international projects clustered around it, will be central to this goal.

Strategic partnerships will be aligned to our research strengths and centres of excellence or to new opportunities. We will continue to provide incentives and opportunities for partners to engage and make evidence-based efforts to clarify the benefits to them.



# Facing outwards – developing strategic partnerships – regional, national, international (continued)

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We will continue to audit our networks, connections, strengths and opportunities to identify overlaps and commonalities.

Internal and external networks can provide significant opportunities for user-inspired interdisciplinary research links, generating innovative ideas for research, and providing critical mass by maximising research synergies. Accordingly, we will continue to exploit our existing networks and to explore the opportunities for expansion of our portfolio of research and associated training, development and innovation. Our networks will be developed or extended in response to external opportunities, and promoted to strategic partnerships as appropriate.

Our approach will be characterised by a commitment to best practice in open innovation when partnering with others, and to the development of a culture of 'intrapreneurship' within the institution itself.

Through these collective endeavours we will continue to be recognised as an inspiring, innovative university of international renown.





**To discuss how the central Research  
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