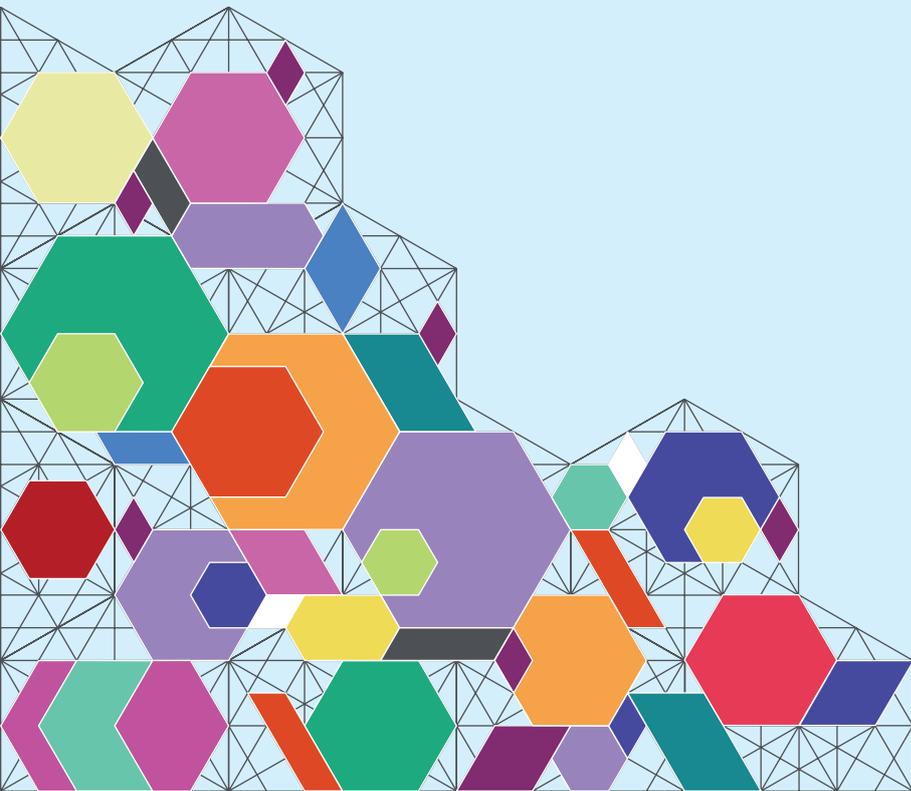


START
TOMORROW
TODAY

Research & Innovation Strategy



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Inverness College

Research and Innovation 2017-2020

How to use this Strategy

It is intended that this strategy will provide clear direction to the Board of Management, staff and stakeholders of Inverness College UHI on our strategic approaches to opportunity and growth in research and innovation.

Staff should make use of this strategy when creating their Operational Plans.

Context

Since 2007 Inverness College has been committed to the development of research as a core part of its growth as a partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands. Over this period the Research Strategy has been implemented in two phases; Phase 1 2007-2012 and Phase 2 2012-17. Both of these phases met targets which have resulted in the organisation and growth of research capacity; and development of a culture of research in the dual sector education environment of UHI. This phased approach has ensured research is now an integral part of the College Strategic Plan and, with the opportunities presented by the move to the Inverness New Campus in 2015, it is a key component of driving academic excellence throughout the organisation.

The environment for research in the college encourages and supports research and scholarship across the breadth of curriculum. The College Research Hub is a dedicated research base for staff and postgraduate researchers. This provides a forum for the development of multi-disciplinary research, in the College, in UHI and with other institutions in the UK and internationally.

The College has specialist strengths in freshwater and fisheries science, forestry, literature, social sciences and rural policy, and has growing research activity in education, sport science, health, psychology and sustainable built environments.

There are three centres of research:

- Rivers and Lochs Institute
- Centre for Remote and Rural Studies
- Scottish School of Forestry

The College encourages and supports individual staff in furthering their research through several mechanisms, including remitted time from teaching responsibilities

where research will lead to consideration for inclusion in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), time allocation for undertaking a Ph.D., and a Research and Scholarship Scheme open to all staff in the College.

Research at Inverness College has grown in close alignment with the UHI Research Strategy and through partnership working with centres of research in other partners in the university. The research postgraduate community (including College staff undertaking Masters and Doctoral research) has grown steadily, with relatively small but strategically important numbers in key discipline areas.

Inverness College UHI is well placed to deliver innovative, internationally relevant, and applied research, that aims to make a significant contribution to the growth of a knowledge based economy in the heart of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Strategic Objective 1:

To build upon our established platform of research excellence, expanding activity in our research centres and across academic teams.

We will achieve this by:

- Continuing to support the growth of the Inverness College research centres and research active staff.
- Focusing on the delivery of research excellence and impact in the 2019/20 REF.
- Working with colleagues in UHI to facilitate appropriate and effective engagement in research and scholarship, with associated staff development support, for staff in the university.

Strategic objective 2:

To ensure our research has relevance, application and impact through development of innovative partnerships with schools, key sector partners and academic partners, and through effective communication of results.

We will achieve this by:

- Expanding and strengthening our collaborations and partnerships with partners in key sectors, for example in freshwater and wild fisheries management, ensuring our innovative research has direct relevance and application.

- Developing strong links with schools, giving both primary and senior phase students the opportunity to find out about research, and potential research careers on their doorstep.
- Continuing to develop and expand inter-disciplinary research partnerships and collaboration in the College, with other partners in UHI and with national and international academic institutions.

Strategic objective 3:

To maximise the opportunities for growing our postgraduate researcher community, creating a strong research culture for our early career researcher development.

We will achieve this by:

- Continuing to grow and support the research postgraduate community in the College, ensuring delivery of quality in supervision and the research environment.
- Growing the numbers of staff with experience and expertise to supervise research students across target areas of curriculum in the College.
- Providing research studentship opportunities for students graduating from College undergraduate programmes.
- Fully participate in delivery of high quality provision for research postgraduates, meeting and exceeding quality standards.

Strategic objective 4:

To ensure research is embedded across our curriculum presenting opportunities for staff and students to be challenging and innovative in their professional practice and supporting integrated career progression.

We will achieve this by:

- Promoting and develop research-teaching linkages to ensure enhancement of the learning and teaching environment for students at all levels of the curriculum.
- Developing professional MRes programmes, including PGCert exit awards, in specialist areas aligned with our research centres.

- Contributing to the development of taught Masters and Honours degree provision, supporting staff in growing areas of core research expertise to link directly to the delivery of subject specialisms for which the College has a growing reputation.

Strategic objective 5:

To expand and develop innovative research and entrepreneurship and grow our knowledge exchange activity.

We will achieve this by:

- Continuing to fully engage with, and develop our knowledge exchange activity, working with national and international stakeholders, local communities and through participation in public engagement activity.
- Focusing on growth of innovative research, directly linked to and applied to relevant sectors, supporting entrepreneurship and enterprise.
- Continuing to achieve financial sustainability whilst developing research capacity.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI
Staff inclusion in Research Excellence submission
Postgraduate research students
Research – teaching links
Staff research profile
Research and innovation grant funding

Cross Reference to Strategic Plan

This strategy links to the following strategic aims:

Strategic Aim
Student Life We will build a vibrant campus community that all of our students are proud of, and within which they are engaged and supported to reach their potential. We will strengthen our existing relationships between our students, staff, employers and the wider community to further increase student participation and the student voice
Curriculum We will offer a progressive curriculum that is valued by our students, employers and the communities we serve, and that is delivered in a variety of ways to make it accessible to all. We will ensure the curriculum remains relevant, responsive to demand and aligned with employment opportunities, providing a range of progression pathways that contribute to the economic growth and social cohesion of our region.
Professional Practice Recognising that people have the greatest influence on our success, we will operate in a positive culture where we stretch ourselves to deliver the highest standards of service, support and delivery that exceeds expectations.
Organisational Development As a highly regarded organisation, we will attract and retain talented employees committed to achieving shared goals. We will create a supportive, collaborative and dynamic environment where students and staff are inspired to learn and develop. Our high performance culture will be underpinned by a dispersed leadership model, within which teams are empowered to deliver and share accountability for outcomes.
Research and Innovation We will build upon our successes in research by strengthening our impact and excellence and growing our regional and international reputation. We will continue to support and grow an innovative and inspired postgraduate researcher community. Our research will directly inform innovation and entrepreneurship activity in key sectors regionally and internationally
Sustainability We will ensure our continuing financial stability by developing income streams and promoting efficient, effective service delivery. We will work collaboratively to enhance the prosperity of the regional economy. We are committed to acting responsibly by protecting our environment, maintaining and developing our infrastructure and managing our risks.

