Research Sciences Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Strategy for the Department of Sports, Health Sciences and Social Work (2020-2025)

Summary

The Department of Sport, Health Sciences and Social Work contains two research centres:

The Centre for Movement, Occupational and Rehabilitation Sciences (MOReS - containing the Movement Science, Clinical Exercise and Rehabilitation, Occupational Sciences and Clinical Applied Nutrition Research themes). MOReS is a department wide centre of excellence containing individuals actively working on research projects from across the department.

Oxford Brookes Centre for Nutrition and Health (OxBCNH) houses the Metabolic, Public Health, Functional Food, Personalised Nutrition, and Nutrition Intervention research themes. OxBCNH has a 20 year history engaging in both applied and commercial research and consultancy.

Additionally, the department's Sport, Exercise and Physical Activity Research Group (SEPRG) conducts research aligning with the research interests of the Sport and Coaching Sciences programme, focusing upon key themes of human performance enhancement, physical activity and health promotion, sport pedagogy and coach development, and socio-cultural issues in sport and PE. Current research in Social Work is falls within the Children's and Families research group (cross departmental research group with Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Research in the department is aligned to UoA 3 (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy) and all research groups are members of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Oxford Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Research (OxINMAHR). The department is also home to The Oxford Clinical Allied Technology and Trial Services Unit (OxCATTs) that has been established to provide support services for delivering high quality research across technology innovations for nursing and allied health professions and their collaborators as well as industry partners.

There has been considerable growth since a successful REF 2014 (UoA3: World-leading or internationally excellent: 82% Output, 90% Impact), potentially tripling the number of people returned and doubling the case studies for REF2021.

This strategy has been developed to be consistent with and complement OxINMAHR and UoA 3 Research Strategy 2020-2025 and the University Research & Innovation strategy 2020-2025, considering contextual factors of the department, factors include:

- Approaching half of academic staff in the department are part time with the majority of staff being part time in some programmes.

- The department operates across 3 sites (Marston, Headington, Harcourt)

- The number of staff with PhDs, research time allocations and capacity to supervise research degrees varies between programmes with some areas having more established research themes.

- The department returns to UoA3. Whilst, the vast majority of research aligns to this unit not all does.

The strategy development also considered 'Characteristics of high-performing research units' (The Policy Institute at King's College London and RAND Europe -2015) that was prepared for HEFCE after REF 2014 to identify characteristics shared between high perform research units, as such this should be seen as a 'living document'.

Strategic Goal

Our **Strategic Goal** is to produce world class research and exchange knowledge contributing expertise from across our disciplines to develop multidisciplinary solutions to international, national and local challenges.

Vision

Our **vision** is to sustain a dynamic and collegiate environment where innovation thrives and collaboration is allowed to develop organically. An environment that affords the opportunity and supports committed individuals to pursue excellent research and knowledge exchange through enabling high quality, inter/multidisciplinary and impactful projects that meet our strategic goal.

We recognise:

- That the department is diverse and that research cultures and experience varies within and between programmes.

- The importance of involving end users of the research at all stages of the research process including patients/clients, clinicians/providers and industry/3rd sector and the value of knowledge exchange activities.

- The need to consider and adapt to policy and international, national and local priorities in order to attract investment and produce impactful research.

- The importance of the department's research and knowledge exchange reputation in attracting staff and students and the importance of research in recruiting, selecting and retaining academics.

- The role of research and knowledge exchange in the department for enhancing the student experience and supporting a research-led curriculum.

- That some research will fall outside of UoA3 but not our vision.

- That resources for research are limited and allocation of UoA3 specific and departmental funds need to be consistent with/or build towards our strategic goal.

Implementation

Fundamental to delivering our strategic goals are two pillars:

People: Support committed staff to realise potential at all research career stages and enable them to produce research that is, or has potential to be, recognised as internationally excellent or world leading, and/or knowledge exchange activities that make a substantial contribution to society, health or wealth.

Environment: Foster a dynamic and collegiate environment where innovation and collaboration thrives and fosters collaboration, engaging internally, locally, nationally and

globally with academic, clinical and industrial/3rd sector partners and an infra-structure to deliver high quality research.

People

- In developing researchers we will recognises diversity of trajectories within our department and support staff at all career stages though training, guidance and opportunity.

- We will support individual's accountable autonomy[1] in research and knowledge exchange.

- We will urge all research active staff to align research to consider local, national or global challenges and priority areas and contribute to the Universities Research and knowledge exchange network themes and provide their expertise to collaborative projects.

- We will encourage research active staff to utilise and contribute to the multidisciplinary and collaborative environment of our research centres.

- For some individuals it may not be optimal to be supported by research groupings within the department. We will support and encourage staff to collaborate with individuals and groups that have a proven track record of contributing in other UoAs returned by the University.

- We will implement allocation of flexible research WLP linked to personal, centre and institute plans and performance (as indicated in WLP tariff definitions). We will recognise those contributing to both research and knowledge exchange with WLP allocations[2].

- We will recognise and value knowledge exchange with appropriate WLP allocations and career progression[2].

- We will appoint, whenever possible, and retain staff of the highest quality and research potential at all career levels

- We will recognise the contribution of professional services staff in delivering excellent research

Environment

- We will invest in and support our research centres that have a proven track record of producing internationally excellent and world leading research, making a substantial contribution to the UoA3 and attracting external funding.

- We will encourage areas of potential and assist them to identify and access support and expertise to enable then to develop.

- We will contribute to OxINMAHR's strategic goal and, though our research centres, be a conduit for staff and research students to contribute to and utilise the community of interdisciplinary research and the expertise, partnerships, training and support of the institute.

- We will support and encourage staff to engage with University wide research networks.

- We will prioritise and actively support collaborative and multidisciplinary research projects

- We will advocate OxCATTs and encourage appropriate research projects to be costed for and utilise services to ensure research quality.

- We will support innovation and feedback (with OxINMAHR) to Faculty and University executive, so that procedures and processes reflect our dynamic and collegiate environment and inform the agile systems and processes the University are developing.

- We will consolidate collaborations through supporting appropriate honorary and visiting roles, enabling joint research training (PhD) and clinical academic positions and facilitating MoUs.

- We will value research students and the contribution they make to the department. We will also recognise the diversity in our research student situations and projects and ensure that our vision of environment applies across this diversity.

- We will utilise research expertise in the delivery of teaching to directly disseminate research findings to students (including exploring CPD opportunities). Through research and dissertations modules we will enable enthusiastic students to be involved in research projects and recognise their contribution.

- We will support activities that maximise the impact and dissemination of our research and knowledge exchange activities for the benefit of our communities, whether local, regional or global.

- We acknowledge climate change as an emergency and will choose the least impactful feasible options in our research and knowledge exchange activities.

Key performance indicator:

We will use the following metrics[3] to monitor and evaluate our performance.

- Publication author list and grant application, consultancy agreements and MoU will provide data for:
    - Number of staff submitting bids as PI
    - Number of staff submitting bids as CO-I
    - Multi/inter disciplinarily of research
    - Engagement with public, academic, clinical, 3rd sector and governmental industrial partners
    - Student publications
    - Local, national and international collaborations
    - Number of accepted publication

- Further data:
    - Number of successful bids and income
    - Number of research students and mode of study

1: For example: Staff are able to use their research allocation time as they fit. However, they are accountable for what they achieve this time which effects future allocations.
2: Allocation to be recommended by research lead through personal research and knowledge exchange plan system in consultation with head of department and program leads / line manager
3: Assumed will be available via CONVERIS