**Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery**

**Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy 2020-2025**

We will produce high quality, clinically relevant research in Nursing, Midwifery and Applied Health Care. The research produced will underpin knowledge transfer within practice developing a clear process of impact in the form of improved care delivery in health and social care and for patients and carers. We will support and work with students and staff to build research capacity and capability within a framework of researcher development informed by Vitae and Concordat. The development of our research will be underpinned by effective public and patient engagement in partnership with key stakeholders through collaborations with health and social care practice and researchers. Our research will inform teaching at all academic levels.

Currently, our research teams have established national and international profiles, publish high quality outputs, have attracted external funding from NIHR, and charities and have strong collaborations both internally and externally from Brookes. The school seeks to develop these key performance markers further through active links with NIHR, CRN, both Oxford BRCs, ARC and the AHSC and AHSN. Particular emphasis is on the local collaborators and links with the two local NHS Trusts and Oxford County Council.

Our vision is to increase research activity both in terms of volume and quality through developing our staff and students, building collaborations internally and externally and by being responsive to local, national and global priorities in nursing and midwifery and the health and social care arena. The result of this activity will aim to demonstrate its significance and impact on professional practice.

**Research Centre:**

Research In the school will be delivered by four research groups under the umbrella of the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery, Health and Social Care Research. The centre is led by Co-directors Dr. Mary Malone (Director of the School of Nursing and Midwifery) and Professor Eila Watson. The centre’s activities are aligned with the strategy for the School of Nursing and Midwifery and will include support and representation from each of the research group leads and key local NHS and Social Care research leads and will develop in line with the strategy and aims of OxINMAHR.

The research groups are:

* Children and Families
* Supportive Cancer Care and Long Term Condition
* Maternity and Childbirth (OxMATER)
* Teaching and Learning Projects

Staff contribute to committees and research groups internally through university research committees and OxINMAHR and externally through BRC, ARC and AHSN/AHSC collaborations. We will build these relationships further and through our staff will contribute to the ongoing development of OxINMAHR as the Faculty wide research institute, under the Directorship of Professor Paul Carding. Researchers will be encouraged to develop and contribute within collaborative research programmes, including internal and external partners of Brookes, across disciplines and University research themes in order to seek funding opportunities.

**Management and Support of Research:**

Research strategy and policy in the school is developed in consultation with all staff at team meetings and School Away Days and is overseen by the Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery Research Lead Professor Jane Appleton and the REF Unit of Assessment Co-ordinator Professor Eila Watson, and is incorporated in Faculty and University Research Strategies.

Staff produce rolling Three to Five Year Research or Knowledge Exchange Plans in discussion with the research lead which outline current and projected research and knowledge exchange activity. Regular review of the research/knowledge exchange plans with the research lead will ensure resources and support are in place to enable staff to work towards positive research/knowledge exchange outcomes. Appropriate workload allocation of hours for research activity will be discussed with the research lead and line manager of the staff member.

Our vision within the OSNM is to recognise current staff potential and to support and mentor them to achieve their research aims. Furthermore, our strategy is to develop the research culture through appointment and development of early career researchers and to appointing staff with a track record in research.

**Impact:**

We aim to support activities that maximise the impact and dissemination of our research for the benefit of the students and staff of the University and our communities, at a local, regional, national and global level. Central to our approach in supporting staff to realise the impact of their research, staff are encouraged to access the University’s Research & Business Development Office (RBDO), the Faculty ADRKE for support and to work with the faculty research team to maximise impact activities. Together they ensure that the impact of research is at the core of project planning, realisation and dissemination. We will encourage staff to seek Faculty support from the Faculty Impact Officer, particularly in training to use the “Tracker” system to record the impact of their research programmes. In addition, we will seek to progress current Impact Case Studies further into the next REF cycle and identify new potential impact case studies.

**Allocation of QR funds:**

QR funds will be used to support activities that maximise the impact and dissemination of our research for the benefit of the students and staff of the University and our communities, whether local, regional, national or global. Allocation of funds will reflect the strategy of the school and development of the REF UoA 3 submission going forward. Funds will be used to invest in staff, infrastructure and to pump prime promising projects. For example, staff have been able to apply for money from a small projects fund to support pilot research or to ensure that current projects reach completion. They can also apply for money to develop research skills, disseminate information and attend workshops and conferences. Staff link their applications for funds with the aims outlined in their Three Year Research or Knowledge Exchange Plans. The school needs to invest in Nursing and Midwifery as a developing research area and the allocation of the QR funds will be used to develop early career researchers to develop in their academic roles.

**Research Growth:**

We will grow through strategic appointments that can contribute to the research centre, the interdisciplinary research networks prioritized by Oxford Brookes (i.e., Children and Young People and Healthy Ageing), and the priorities of the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

The strategy moving forward is to support and nurture internal talent through effective mentorship and support as early career researchers, but also to recruit external appointments at senior level. Wherever possible we will support fellowship and tenure track opportunities to grow and develop the department, and to prioritize retention of researchers who show real promise. The school’s strategy will develop closer links with teaching and research to ensure all curriculum as research informed and all researchers carry out teaching as well as research to ensure a research-led curriculum.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery will work with our two local NHS trusts and NIHR Biomedical Research Councils to develop a platform for integrated clinical academic careers to ensure nursing and midwifery are developing as research led professions at all levels.

**Infrastructure:**

The School of Nursing and Midwifery will seek to maintain, develop and enhance the research facilities at a level appropriate with developing national and international level research. This will include the integration of teaching and research staff within the School and further development of the research degree students’ learning environment. This includes a room for doctoral students where each full time student has their own desk and computer, and space for part-time students to hot-desk. Early Career Research Fellows, Post-Doctoral, and Graduate Research Assistants and Visiting Researchers will have space to work alongside researchers and students to ensure a dynamic research culture. All staff and doctoral students will have the opportunity to be aligned to one of the research groups within the centre and will have access to mentorship and development through research seminar programmes and University wide research training. All doctoral students will be allocated to the Applied Health, Nursing and Midwifery Doctoral Training Programme to impart research knowledge and skills to develop them to become independent researchers.

**Public Engagement and Outreach:**

The School of Nursing and Midwifery recognises the importance of dissemination of research to the public at large. As such all research groups will be encouraged to participate in public engagement events and outreach activities. We will continue to promote our work to the public and special interest groups and have an established public engagement group within the School which informs both teaching and research strategy and development.

Our impact case studies illustrate how practice and clinical care has developed through our research. We plan to develop further promotional platforms to showcase our research and to develop impact case studies going forward.

**Enhancing the Visibility and External Profile of Research in the Department:**

The Centre for Nursing, Midwifery, Health and Social Care Research runs a programme of research seminars through research groups and through a programme of seminars delivered by OxINMAHR researchers. In some seminars we invite leading researchers from the UK who align with our research priorities. We also host visiting international researchers and provide them with space to work on their research and with meeting rooms to forge collaborative projects. We will continue to promote our research and seek to improve the visibility of our research beyond the university.

**Doctoral Students:**

We will continue to recruit high quality Ph.D. students, ensuring that candidates’ projects are aligned with research programs that contribute to our REF strategy for high quality outputs. In so doing students are more likely to submit their Ph.D. on time and are more likely to produce REF returnable outputs.

We will continue to develop the Professional Doctorate in Nursing (DNurs) attracting leading nurses to develop their research skills and to develop professional practice through research. We will look to enhance this provision further through the development of a Professional Doctorate in Midwifery (DMid) to ensure all professional groups are supported to develop research in the professional arena. We will work with Marketing and Faculty to engage in further work on the marketing of this provision.

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