

RESEARCH STRATEGY

The Research Strategy is designed to support the University's Strategy to 2030:
"Our purpose is to challenge our students and staff to realise their talent and thrive, for their own benefit and for the wider good. By doing this, we will think and make the world better."

OUR VISION FOR EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

At Bath Spa University, we aim to be a vibrant and well-connected centre for new ideas, with no internal boundaries and an international profile for creativity, culture and enterprise in research. We will do this by embedding the University's values of Respect, Inclusivity, Collaboration and Sustainability into all of our work, by ensuring that our research underpins everything that we do, and by actively engaging with stakeholders across the local, regional and global community.

The core focus for the research strategy centres around both UK and global priorities for research, which align both with the strengths of the university, and focus our concentration on our areas of research strength, where we can clearly demonstrate existing world class research, and the potential for growth.

Our research themes are focused around areas of research that are strategic priorities for the university, and in which we can demonstrate world leading research, impact and collaborative and partnerships and are led by world class leaders in their fields. These research leaders will lead large strategic research grants and projects, and support and develop Inter, trans and multi disciplinary research and enterprise collaborations across the university. Staff will be aligned to each of those themes, with management of research at academic school level focused around a complementary research and enterprise governance structure.

RESEARCH AIMS FOR 2030

1. To concentrate our research into areas with proven excellence and academic sustainability and in areas that are a strategic focus for the University where we believe there is great potential, for instance fashion and sustainability.
2. To enhance the reciprocal relationships between research, innovation, professional practice and teaching, to ensure research and knowledge exchange activities are driven by the demands of the curriculum and help to drive and support that curriculum.
3. To create a distinctive and internationally recognised profile of innovative research, focussing on the intersection of professional, creative and sustainable approaches to real world issues. We must ensure that the majority of our research is tied very closely into applied and vocational areas as well as creativity and practice.
4. To continue to grow and develop strategic funding in research enterprise and knowledge exchange, building a diverse portfolio of externally funded projects through concentrating our support on our areas of research excellence.
5. To enhance our research enterprise and knowledge exchange profile and activities, by creating research that is ever more impactful and makes a distinctive contribution to the creative and cultural economy. We will use the opportunity that our AHRC Impact Accelerator Award will provide to collaboratively develop an impact strategy with external stakeholders.
6. To create a distinctive international research profile, linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by building on our international research links and university collaborations.
7. To add a strategic research theme around the area of Global Sustainability and Fashion to support our ambitions for the proposed Creative Quarter at the Locksbrook Campus. This will enable us to develop our research profile and reputation in this area, and to secure substantial external income streams through aligned research and enterprise activities.
8. To develop and support a new generation of researchers working across our strategic research themes and priorities, through targeted development of Doctoral programmes in research and professional practice, and by supporting our Early Stage Researchers to develop international collaborations through our GALA network.
9. To conduct research with integrity and in an open and ethical manner, paying attention to environmental issues and issues of diversity, and ensuring that our research environment and culture support our academic staff and our emerging research community of student researchers.
10. To develop the next generation of socially-minded citizens by conducting research, knowledge exchange and public engagement that delivers social, cultural and economic impact, and fosters cultural development.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR 2030

Our research centres around the distinctiveness of BSU research. We have developed a culture that nurtures excellence, with a focus on research that reflects our strengths and pushes disciplinary boundaries. Our principal objectives to help us achieve this are as follows:

1. To ensure our curriculum drives, and is driven by, research, professional practice and knowledge exchange activities, so that students are challenged at the forefront of their discipline and that we develop researchers of all career stages, actively encouraging students to engage with research and to contribute to the research environment in which they are taught.
2. To recognise the role of research in supporting innovative enterprise activity, and enable this by building strong partnerships to maximise the societal and economic benefits of our research, leveraging our creative expertise, and supporting staff and student knowledge exchange activities.
3. To use our expertise across the arts, humanities, education, sciences, and social sciences to build interdisciplinary responses to research questions and to create research that is impactful, addresses the challenges of our time and makes a distinctive contribution.
4. To recognise the mutual dependence of new technologies and culture through embedding technological innovation within our research practice.
5. To extend our expertise in engaged research practices through creative strategies and co-production of research with participants, by embedding an understanding of the importance of impact and public engagement in research practice and ensuring that we build cultural diversity and cultural engagement into our activities.
6. To build a distinctive and globally excellent research profile by widening our international research links and externally-funded international projects, develop our existing connections with countries/regions that might be underrepresented in the broader international research landscape and develop sustainable knowledge ecosystems that are challenge-driven, developmental, transdisciplinary and politically aware.
7. To develop the GALA network to provide exchange and networking opportunities for staff and students and to help us secure substantive research income for collaborative projects.
8. To increase the number of Doctoral students - where strategically appropriate - both nationally and internationally, by attracting able Doctoral students by promoting our research strengths and the interdisciplinarity of our research environment, and integrating our research students fully into the research communities linked to our research priorities. We will aim to retain our best students from Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught programmes by offering early advice about research opportunities and recognise their loyalty with discounted fee offers.
9. To ensure that our research management and governance structures enhance and support interdisciplinary research and foster a culture of open research.

