

Faculty of Education
Summary of Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy 2009-12

This strategy has been developed within the Faculty of Education in order to support the University's Strategic Plan for Research and build on the Faculty's successful research profile.

Aims

The Faculty of Education is committed to building an active and collaborative research community which:

- supports the development of an inclusive research culture for all staff and research students;
- creates a stimulating and supportive research culture, which provides research and knowledge transfer activities for all academic staff to enhance their research development;
- aims to develop further its existing research and knowledge transfer activity, in order to make an effective and high quality impact on national and international scholarship;
- aspires to ensure that the Faculty's national reputation for excellence is reflected in a growing national and international research profile;
- builds on the successes of the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008 in readiness for the national Research Excellence Framework in 2013;
- designs critical investigations which lead to new knowledge and understandings of educational theory, policy and practice;
- collaborates locally, nationally and internationally with partners in education in order to improve policy, professional practice and learning;
- disseminates the outcomes of educational research for the benefit of practitioners, researchers, policy makers and other interested groups .

Objectives

Three key objectives have been identified in order to ensure that these research aims can be realised in the Faculty, which include the provision of:

1. A central framework for research activity in the Faculty of Education which builds on previous successes.
2. A strengthening of research activity in all departments through departmental and inter-departmental research themes.
3. A formal structure for collaborative research development with the Faculty of Health and Social Care.

In addition, further strategic objectives include the following:

- embed research and research support at different levels within the Faculty;
- facilitate the progression of staff in obtaining master's and doctoral degrees, participation in research projects, career progression to readerships, as appropriate;
- introduce focussed research induction for new staff;
- provide further training and support in bidding for funded research and knowledge transfer projects from government and international agencies, charities and research councils;
- increase the volume and quality of research outputs;
- increase the number of research active staff to be submitted in the REF 2013;

- increase research degree supervision capacity and research degree student numbers recruited to the PhD and professional doctorates;
- consolidate international activity and formalise partnerships;
- continue to facilitate the dissemination of research within the Faculty through internal conferences such as those organised by, for example, staff development ;
- continue to provide staff development support for staff to attend conferences and study leave where appropriate;
- set up, maintain and monitor research outputs, including publications and research funding;
- improve the communication of research activities and outputs on the Faculty website.

Organisation

The **Educational Research Directorate** addresses the first key objective and will provide the framework within which research activity can be generated and supported. The Director of Research will provide strategic leadership and support for all research activity, co-ordinate and lead the theme co-ordinators. In addition, the Director of Research Development will work with the Director of Research to develop and strengthen all aspects of the research culture and research support as well as being responsible for research students. The Director of Knowledge Transfer will take responsibility for leading the development of Knowledge Transfer projects and partnerships.

Six **research themes** will address the second key objective. The five themes identified so far are:

- Professional development and identity
- Curriculum innovation and creativity
- Inclusion, equalities and social justice
- Auto/biography and narrative studies
- Children, Families and Communities

The fifth theme will be focussed within the **Centre for Children, Families and Communities**, an inter-disciplinary centre with the Faculty of Health and Social Care (meeting the third key objective). The final theme will be linked to the **National Institute for Christian Education Research**, a centre within the Faculty of Education (title to be agreed). All themes will aim to include an international as well as a national dimension. Theme co-ordinators will be research leaders in their field, who will lead the development of a range of research activities and support within the Faculty.

All aspects of the research strategy and organisation will be reviewed on an annual basis.