Research Strategy
2016-21

Our mission is to be recognised globally for our academic strengths and the impact we deliver through our research. In the period 2016 - 21 we will work to create an inspiring research environment that nurtures talent and rewards outstanding leadership and excellence.

Research Strategy Priorities

PRIORITY 1 | CULTURE OF RESEARCH AMBITION

Culture of Research Ambition
Inspire the next generation of world-class researchers, not just as individuals but as leaders and motivators of others.

PRIORITY 2 | CONNECTING TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Connecting to Tackle Global Challenges
Reshape how we organise research to work with one another and with partners to yield solutions to the world’s most difficult problems.

PRIORITY 3 | VIBRANT POSTGRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL COMMUNITY

Vibrant Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Community
Create a vibrant and ambitious postgraduate and postdoctoral community; attracting, retaining, and developing the very best talent.

Research Organisation

Our Global Research Institutes bring researchers from different disciplines together on a scale that enables them to address major societal challenges

GLOBAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

CORE DISCIPLINES

PIioneer Research Programmes

Excellent research conducted by researchers working in a range of core disciplines is the foundation for our research success, as demonstrated through the results of REF 2014

Through Pioneer Research Programmes, we stimulate novel interdisciplinary research collaborations to tackle challenges emerging on the global horizon

Excellence in research and innovation, and making a positive global impact, are central to what we do at Queen’s University Belfast.

Professor James C. McElroy
Acting President and Vice Chancellor

“Excellence in research and innovation, and making a positive global impact, are central to what we do at Queen’s University Belfast.”
Our interdisciplinary research priorities are shaped by our three Global Challenge Themes. Together they raise pressing and difficult research questions which are motivating our first cohorts of Global Research Institutes (GRIs) and Pioneer Research Programmes (PRPs).

Through our GRIs and PRPs we are...

**Global Challenge Themes**

- **Healthy Global Population**
  - Tackling cancer, respiratory conditions and eye diseases that affect populations worldwide, ensuring advances can help fight a range of conditions.
  - GRI - The Institute for Health Sciences

- **Technology Futures**
  - Bringing together environmental and energy analysis with emerging technologies to meet the challenges of long-term energy security.
  - PRP - Centre for Sustainable Energy

- **Inclusive, Secure and Enriched Society**
  - Helping to better manage risks – financial, environmental, social – to protect the most vulnerable in society.
  - PRP - Risk and Inequality

**Our Research Priorities**

- **Securing children and young peoples’ rights at the United Nations**
- **Exploring exoplanet atmospheres in molecular detail**
- **Improving quality of life for millions of patients through enhanced orthopaedics**
- **Point of care technology on the front line of 2014 West African Ebola crisis**
- **Using technology to detect food fraud and protect global food chains**
- **Securing children and young peoples’ rights at the United Nations**
- **Using advanced technologies such as smart materials in drug delivery**
- **Creating smart, autonomous manufacturing systems that will make the factories of the future more productive, resilient and energy efficient**
- **Exploring our shared past and exploring our shared future, locally and globally**
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**Leadership and Skills Development**

- **THINKER**
  - Reflective
  - Critical
  - Flexible
  - Disruptive
- **LEADER**
  - Visionary
  - Strategic
  - Self-aware
  - Collaborative
- **INNOVATOR**
  - Creative
  - Entrepreneurial
  - Risk manager
  - Networked
- **FUTURE-READY**
  - Confident
  - Resilient
  - Employer-focused
  - Networked
- **COMMUNICATOR**
  - Academic writer
  - Public engaged
  - Socially networked
  - Professional presenter
Research Success

8th in the UK for Research Intensity
(Times Higher Intensity Rankings based on REF 2014)

1st in the UK for Knowledge Partnerships with Business

£100m + in new research awards in 2016-17

Top 10 in the UK for income from IP
(HE-BCI Survey 2017)

9th in the World Rankings for International Research Collaboration
(THE 2017)

43% growth over 5 years in research grant awards
(2012-2017)

Over 75% of research assessed as “world-leading” or “internationally excellent”
(REF 2014)

Top 30 most effective publishers in the World
(THE World University Rankings result 2018)

1,900 people employed in 40 Active spin-out companies.