



The University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham
NG7 2RD
UK

Front cover image:
Professor David Walsh, Director of the Arthritis Research UK
Pain Centre, examining a patient at City Hospital

Research and Knowledge Transfer Strategy

www.nottingham.ac.uk/research



Our Strategy and Objectives

The University of Nottingham will build upon its international reputation as a truly global institution, remaining firmly within the world's elite and among the top UK universities for research and knowledge transfer. We will share our cross-disciplinary research, using it to deliver economic, social and cultural benefits for society, both nationally and internationally.

Vision

Our vision will be achieved by continuing to

- develop international centres of excellence and creative environments
- maintain the highest quality international research
- create positive change

Aims and objectives

The University's aims and objectives include

- developing a world-class environment and infrastructure across each of our local and international campuses
- achieving an academic and research staff profile that ranks Nottingham in the top five nationally and the top 50 internationally
- recruiting, developing and retaining exceptional staff with outstanding research backgrounds

- developing a creative and entrepreneurial culture throughout the institution
- maximising the impact of our research and scholarship
- respecting the local culture, values and needs of our host communities

We will also add value and context to our operations by

- building on business opportunities
- securing sustainable partnerships and networks that deliver mutual opportunities and benefits

Professor Bob Webb

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research

Professor Chris Rudd

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer and Business Engagement

Two postgraduate students working in a laboratory researching carbon capture, University Park Campus

Research Assessment Exercise outcome 2008-2014

Seventh in the UK for research power

In the most recent RAE rankings taken in 2008, The University of Nottingham scored highly in quality rankings covering major disciplines in science, medicine, engineering, the social sciences, business and the arts. It is our increase in research power rankings which shows the impressive amount of excellent research we carry out. In total, 34 units ranked in the top 10 of their subject area.

We are now

- ranked seventh of all British universities and only one of two institutions to move into the UK top 10 since 2001 – an increase of seven places
- in the top five for a total of 19 units (more than half)

Ranked first

We ranked first in the UK in the areas of

- Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Sciences
- American Studies and Anglophone Area Studies
- Iberian and Latin American Languages
- Pharmacy

Top three units

In addition to those areas ranked first, the following units are also in the top three for either grade point average (GPA) or research power.

- Chemistry
- Physics and Astronomy
- American and Canadian Studies
- French and Francophone Studies
- Hispanic and Latin American Studies
- Chemical and Environmental Engineering

World-leading research

Nottingham entered one of the highest numbers of research areas for assessment and 91 per cent of eligible research staff – this showed our confidence in the international standard of our academics and the range of excellence to be found amongst our staff and students. Following the RAE results

- 90 per cent of all research at Nottingham has been classified of an 'international standard'
- 60 per cent of research has been classified as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'

Research and Knowledge Transfer Priority Groups

The University of Nottingham has established a number of Research and Knowledge Transfer Priority Groups. These are key areas of focus to support the delivery of excellence in Research and Knowledge Transfer.

Nine Priority Groups are in key thematic areas with the potential to grow and deliver an influential amount of world-class research and knowledge transfer addressing global issues and challenges

- Biomedical Imaging
- Global Food Security
- Drug Discovery
- Energy
- Science, Technology and Society
- Operations in a Digital World
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Integrating Global Society

A further four underpin a range of capabilities across the University with the objective of leveraging significant external funding

- Clinical Translational Research
- International
- Centre for Advanced Studies
- Facilities

Aims

Priority Groups are the principal mechanism for developing new thematic areas, building coherence, credibility and capacity around selected research and knowledge transfer themes whilst maximising outputs and investments from a combination of internal and external strategic investments. They enable the University to funnel discretionary funding streams for staff, infrastructure and research and knowledge transfer activities which deliver strategic opportunities and return on investments via external impact.

Impact

Research-focused Priority Groups will maximise the visibility and impact of the University's research by securing significant levels of external funding to support their research activities and becoming an institutional champion for their topic. They are incorporating interdisciplinary collaborations of international quality, providing a first-class environment for career development and training, and attracting high quality staff, postgraduates and strategic partnerships.

Life-span

It is envisaged that Priority Groups will have an initial life-span of five years in order to allow for new thematic areas to emerge. These will be dependent on the University's evolving priorities and changing global challenges.

“The results are a tribute to the talent and dedication of the University’s academic community and the continued excellence of their work. This is a tremendous achievement for Nottingham and confirms our status as a global research-intensive university.”

Professor David Greenaway
Vice-Chancellor



Dr Matt Brookes working in the Sir Peter Mansfield Magnetic Resonance Centre (MRI), University Park Campus

Investment in Early Career Researchers

The University of Nottingham provides many support and development opportunities to its community of nearly 3,000 Postgraduate Research Students (PGRs). It is currently ranked second in the UK for its 88 per cent rate of PhD completions within seven years – an important performance indicator for HEFCE.

Nine Doctoral Training Centres funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and other bodies span a wide range of disciplines.

Internationally, Nottingham's six campuses are among the most popular destinations for postgraduate researchers. The University is third in the UK for the number of overseas PGRs studying with us. The International Student Barometer recognises Nottingham Graduate School as one key factor in our success recruiting international postgraduates and ranks Nottingham ninth worldwide.

The University of Nottingham Research and Knowledge Transfer Board funds two fellowship programmes and an award specifically for researchers at the beginning of their careers.

These are

- Nottingham Advance Research Fellowships
- Anne McLaren Fellowships
- Early Career Research and Knowledge Transfer Award

Nottingham Advance Research Fellowships

Nottingham Advance Research Fellowships are targeted at exceptional postdoctoral researchers in all academic areas represented at the University.

Six fellowships are awarded every year and each one offers two years independent funding to conduct research while based at the University and participation in a mentoring scheme and career advice.

Anne McLaren Fellowships

Anne McLaren Fellowships are prestigious postdoctoral fellowships funded by The University of Nottingham. They are targeted at excellent women scientists and engineers who wish to establish a research career in the UK in the following areas

- science
- engineering and technology
- medicine

Two fellowships are awarded every year and each one offers two years of independent funding for research to be based at The University of Nottingham and the possibility of holding appointments on a part time basis; converting from full time to part time and back again to help match work and family commitments; claiming some funds for family support where these can be justified on scientific grounds; and reclaiming maternity leave. There is also the option of participating in a mentor scheme and receiving career advice.

Early Career Research and Knowledge Transfer Awards

A minimum of 20 Early Career Research and Knowledge Transfer Awards are made every year to fund excellent researchers at The University of Nottingham in preparation for applying to external funders. These are targeted at scholars at the beginning of their research careers who have not been principal investigators on a research award and covers all academic areas represented at the University.

The award provides up to 12 months of funding for high-quality research that leads to an external grant application such as applications to Research Councils UK (RCUK), charity or government research funding and generates high-impact publications or other significant outcomes.

Two undergraduate students shearing sheep in the Vet School's small holdings, Sutton Bonington Campus