

Research Framework 2009-2013

Preamble

The University of Western Sydney is entering the next phase of intensive growth and consolidation of its research activity, ensuring that research excellence extends beyond concentrations of research effort to all Colleges and Schools.

UWS aims to be positioned in the top third of Australian universities for competitive research grant income by 2015 as it seeks to secure national and international recognition in specific research areas. It will achieve this recognition through strategic and targeted investment in researchers and infrastructure within a five-year framework that builds on research achievements of the past decade.

Research Framework 2009-2013, which comprises strategic initiatives and improvement actions to deliver these, will help UWS realise its goals against key performance measures. These will include competitive research grant income and a strong reputation in applied research in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

In the next five years research at UWS will have a broader base with more active research groups underpinning high-performing research centres. The possibility of establishing research institutes will be examined. Research institutes will aggregate high performing research concentrations under a single umbrella. These institutes will be ranked in Australia's top five in their disciplines. But while the University is committed to collaborative and interdisciplinary research, individual researchers will continue to make an important contribution to the overall research effort and will be supported by the University.

Strategic initiatives and improvement actions

Increase overall research intensity and performance by:

- 1.1 Creating research lectureships with a one third teaching load to attract high performing early career researchers and enable them to establish research careers
- 1.2 Funding additional research staff in successful Research Centres
- 1.3 Funding additional research staff in research groups based on performance

Achieve outstanding quality in research and scholarship by:

- 2.1 Recruiting high quality research-active staff into centres, groups and academic positions generally
- 2.2 Diversifying the research base in targeted disciplines by supporting more research groups in areas of growing research activity
- 2.3 Allocating funding for research infrastructure acquisition and maintenance
- 2.4 Maintaining and targeting more sharply UWS internal grants that provide seed support for external grant opportunities, partnership grants, early career researchers, collaborations, and “near miss” ARC and NHMRC applications

Strategic initiatives and improvement actions *cont.*

Enhance and increase the scope of productive research groups by:

- 3.1 Establishing a small number of institutes that draw together research concentrations
- 3.2 Increasing the number of supported research groups in key discipline areas (3)
- 3.3 Fostering research in science, engineering, health and medicine
- 3.4 Attracting high performing research groups outside UWS to strengthen existing concentrations or open new research areas of strategic importance to UWS

Develop effective research partnerships by:

- 4.1 Increasing UWS partnership grants as seed funding to increase the number of ARC linkage grants
- 4.2 Targeting funding for ARC infrastructure grants, ARC Centres of Excellence, CRC proposals and one-off partnerships with industry or government

Strategic initiatives and improvement actions *cont.*

Provide a rich and stimulating environment for research students by:

- 5.1 Increasing the number of UWS research scholarships to attract more, and higher quality, students
- 5.2 Increasing the number of honours scholarships to improve the flow of UWS undergraduates into research programs
- 5.3 Increasing marketing of research activities to attract more international students with overseas scholarships
- 5.4 Supporting Indigenous research to increase Indigenous participation in research degree programs
- 5.5 Providing state-of-the-art research facilities that attract research students of high ability

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