

Transforming Futures
Research Strategy
2020-2030



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Strategy 2030

The University's Strategy 2030 sets out the ambition and priorities for the University 2020–2030. The Strategy is based on the University's mission and values:

UWE Bristol transforms futures: powering the future workforce, supporting local economic prosperity, shaping the health and sustainability of our communities and creating solutions to global challenges.

Values

Ambitious

We are not afraid to shape, challenge and tackle the big issues, to take the initiative and pave the way.

Inclusive

We make UWE Bristol a supportive and inspiring place to learn and work – somewhere where diversity of experience and perspective is encouraged, and learning and research is shared and accessible.

Innovative

We create new opportunities for the people who work and study with us. We embrace different ideas and pioneer new and sustainable ways of doing things.

Collaborative

We have strong connections locally and globally. We help people and organisations be the best they can, building trust throughout our university community and beyond.

Enterprising

We instil a thirst for new knowledge, its creation and application, empowering our students and staff to demonstrate a creative questioning approach, a 'can-do' confidence, and ability to navigate uncertainty.

As we shape our future to 2030 our focus will be on:

Our Purpose

Solving future challenges through outstanding learning, research and a culture of enterprise.

Our People

Creating opportunities to thrive and flourish.

Our Place

Creating an inspiring local and global gateway to the future.

The priorities contained in Strategy 2030 are being driven forward through a series of sub-strategies as set out on page 10.

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Our RISE Framework

Introduced in 2025 UWE Bristol's RISE framework is our unique multi-disciplined, system-led approach to research, innovation, skills, enterprise and ethical practices, driving societal improvements and transforming futures for the better. Collaborating with industry, public sector bodies and communities, we're redefining horizons and challenging conventions to impact lives positively. Using big data, AI, augmented and virtual reality, business, research and creative thinking, our highly collaborative teams power the future workforce, drive economic growth and prosperity, shape our communities' health and sustainability, and create a more just and sustainable future for all.

Research – World-class thinking that solves real-world problems.

Innovation – Not just ideas – solutions that rewrite the rules.

Skills – Upskilling today to forge tomorrow's workforce.

Enterprise – Enterprise that fuels progress. Businesses that ignite change.

Further information can be found at uwe.ac.uk/riise

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Transforming Futures Research Strategy



Through our Transforming Futures Research Strategy we will prioritise and grow internationally excellent and world-leading research with real-world impact, build on our strengths, prioritise challenge-based research, drive innovation and enterprise, and enhance the student experience.

We will focus on four themes as identified in our RISE framework:

- Shaping Integrated Healthcare.
- Harnessing Creativity and Technology.
- Enriching Culture, Place and Community.
- Securing a Green Resilient Future.

Our RISE beacons will shape the priorities and reputation of UWE Bristol. Priorities under each of the RISE Beacons are set out in annex one.

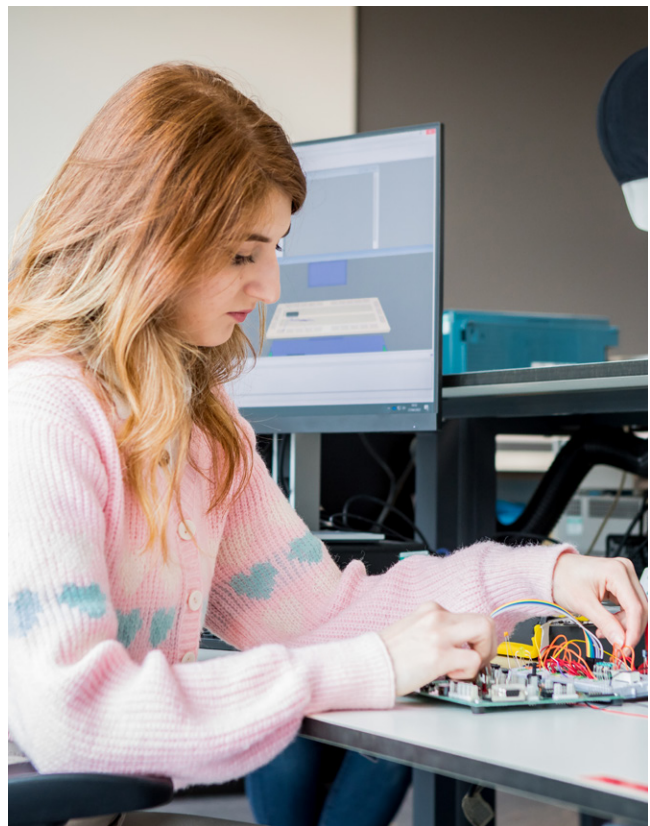
Our ambition is that through our research, we will transform the future, advance knowledge, support sustainable economic growth and development, enhance social and cultural development, promote health and wellbeing, equality and diversity, and the quality of built and natural environments.



3.1 | Our strategic priorities

In order to achieve our ambitions we will:

- Advance knowledge, support sustainable economic growth and development, enhance social and cultural development, promote health, well-being and the quality of the environment.
 - Shape the ambition and reputation of the University around our four RISE Beacons and RISE framework and the priorities within these.
 - Encourage and enable interdisciplinary approaches and contributions that combine to address effectively the key challenges of the future.
 - Achieve outstanding and far-reaching research impacts working with business, government, the NHS, other stakeholders and communities.
 - Develop and support research which drives outstanding, research-enabled, practice-based learning and skills development across all learner-communities.
 - Support excellence in teaching and learning by promoting research on the policy and practice of higher education teaching and learning.
 - Combine local focus and global reach across our research activities and impacts, working with world-leading partners and stakeholders in the UK and internationally.
 - Promote collaboration between university researchers, business, communities and wider stakeholders to drive knowledge exchange, innovation and enterprise.
 - Support and develop opportunities for research career development across the University as a whole.
 - Promote and support the development of post-graduate research and doctoral studies in support of our strategic research priorities.
- Develop a world-leading, smart, university enterprise campus and living laboratory, enhancing the ecosystem for innovation, enterprise and opportunity.
 - Ensure our research is outstanding in terms of ethics and governance, is responsible, well-evidenced and authoritative, and open to scrutiny.
 - Work to address the under-representation of individuals and organisations from Black and Minority Ethnic communities across our research activities and to oppose racism in all its forms.



3.2 | How we will measure our progress

Comprehensive assessment of research performance is provided by the Research Excellence Framework run by Research England. This, however, is only undertaken every six years.

The headline performance measure for research is therefore:

- Research-funding secured per annum from external sources, measured in absolute terms and per fte academic staff number.

External research funding is secured through peer review, competitive tendering or panel review and is therefore a robust measure of the quality of the research to be undertaken. It typically also leads to high quality outputs and impacts in line with funder expectations.

A wider set of annual performance measures has been developed covering inputs, process measures and outputs. These can be generated for the University as a whole and for sub-units (see annex two).

To achieve our ambitions and priorities we will expand, significantly, the volume of research funded from external sources and the proportion of our academic staff with a significant commitment to research. We will therefore set testing targets for these, and the full set of other performance measures.



Annex one

UWE Bristol 2030 Research themes and priorities

UWE Bristol's RISE Beacons build on our research strengths as a university. They also address future challenges identified by UK Research and Innovation, Government Industrial Strategy, the Global Challenge Research Fund, other initiatives and funding bodies.

Shaping integrated healthcare

- From hospital to community, healthy ageing, long-term conditions
- From analogue to digital
- A skilled workforce for a stronger NHS
- Bio-sciences, life sciences, health technologies
- Wellness, wellbeing, mental health

Harnessing creativity and technology

- Future ready skills
- Robotics, artificial intelligence and advanced engineering
- Industrial digitalisation
- High value design and next generation services, cyber security
- Shaping the future economy by accelerating innovation and investment

Enriching, culture, place and community

- Shaping sustainable places
- Driving investment and planning reform
- Strengthening communities
- Shaping the future economy
- Future mobility, connectivity and place

Securing a green resilient future

- Sustainable leadership
- Transforming construction, infrastructure and design
- Green innovation, from food security, water management to air quality
- Pioneering low carbon development

Our RISE Beacons will be reviewed periodically to identify potential emerging priorities in both the external environment and developing research strengths within the University.

Annex two

Research metrics

Inputs	
1	External research income
2	External 'other' income (Knowledge Exchange, consultancy, CPD etc)
3	Bid success rate: ratio of successful bids to total bids submitted (value to UWE Bristol in excess of £15k)
Process	
4	Proportion of academic staff time devoted to research supported by external funding
5	Proportion of academic staff time devoted to research supported by internal investment
6	Proportion of academic staff with a significant commitment of time formally allocated to research
Outputs	
7	PGR (PhD, DPhil, Prof Doc) completions
8	Published quality outputs logged in UWE Research Repository (with ISBN/ISSN/DOI) per FTE academic staff member
9	Proportion of academic staff named as (co-)author on at least one published quality output logged in UWE Research Repository

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