



## STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

A College of Queen's University Belfast

### Research Strategy

This Research Strategy is aligned to the Corporate Plan 2015-18 which expresses a commitment to embedding research in teaching and learning across all programmes at Stranmillis, and to developing research to help lead teaching, shape policy, change practice and inform debate within and beyond the University College.

**Research Mission:** *to extend our reputation as a national and international centre for high quality, practitioner-focused educational research*

**This mission will be realised through pursuing five key objectives:**

#### 1. Research Excellence

*Objective: to engage in research of the highest quality in terms of originality, significance and rigour*

We will:

- increase the quantity and quality of research outputs, focusing on originality, significance and rigour in order to maximise our return to REF2021
- achieve an increase in external research funding from a wide variety of national and international sources
- foster a culture of internal and external research collaboration
- to consolidate our existing areas of research specialism, while also looking to the future by supporting emerging multi-disciplinary areas that reflect the recognised needs of our society, such as a Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement

#### 2. Research Environment

*Objective: to develop a rich, vibrant and supportive research infrastructure characterised by the highest standards of research integrity*

We will

- support a strong underpinning culture that actively encourages and supports innovative, high-quality research among all staff
- provide appropriate financial and physical resources to facilitate high-quality research, including staff access to online journals and databases
- provide high-quality, accessible support on all aspects of research through the Research Office, mentorship programme, and clear policies and procedures
- ensure that the highest standards of academic, professional and research integrity are maintained through robust ethical policies and procedures
- create an environment that encourages multidisciplinary thinking and collaboration
- optimise synergies between teaching and research at all levels including undergraduate, postgraduate and professional development, including maximising the potential mutuality between the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and the Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- create opportunities for students to engage meaningfully in research
- celebrate high-quality student research
- develop a PhD/EdD doctoral programme

### **3. Investment in People**

*Objective: to attract excellent staff and to develop and empower their careers as researchers*  
We will

- recruit staff who are demonstrably committed to teaching and learning but also to research and scholarship
- retain time for research and scholarship in workload allocation models to facilitate greater research output and to inform and enhance teaching and research supervision
- provide support, mentoring and staff development opportunities (including doctoral support) to build research capacity at all levels
- facilitate annual individual research planning with appropriate expectations and targets
- encourage staff to demonstrate active contribution to at least one subject association, learned society or relevant professional body where there is alignment with the College's REF submission
- encourage staff to gain experience of research activity in other national or international higher education or specialist research institutions by, for example, acting as external examiners for doctoral examinations, serving as validation/review panel members, or contributing to collaborative research projects with other organisations

### **4. Research Impact**

*Objective: to ensure that our research has an impact on our teaching but also beyond academia yielding broader economic, social and cultural benefits*

We will:

- embed research impact principles in our research planning, approval, management and evaluation processes
- ensure that our research has clear links to and appropriate impact on our teaching
- maximise the impact of our research nationally and internationally through the development of an impact strategy
- facilitate appropriate opportunities for staff to present their research in College, and also at national and international research conferences, leading to publication
- continue to support the Research Impact Coordinator in the recording of research impact for shortlisted REF case studies using the College template, and in the development of a research impact policy

### **5. National and International Reach**

*Objective: to extend our national and international reach by engaging in collaborative partnerships and disseminating our research*

We will:

- focus and strengthen our involvement in national and international research partnerships and collaborative networks that align to our areas of strength to enable our staff to become key influencers in their field
- ensure compliance with Open Access requirements for research publications and develop more effective exposure of our research and tracking of its reach through access to a research repository
- encourage and support staff to avail of staff mobility funding to build international research links across the EU and further afield
- enhance our national and international reach through effective digital dissemination of our research