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RESEARCH STRATEGY

2013-18

**Originator: DOSHEER**

**Date: June 2013**

**Approved by:**

**Type: Strategy**

**Revised: 06/03/2014**

The Research Strategy for Leeds College of Art relates to Aim 2 of the Strategic Plan.

***AIM 2: To develop our research practice and innovation which enhances teaching and learning***

We will:

1. Establish postgraduate programmes to enhance and progress practice based research and scholarly activity in subject disciplines.
2. Develop research across the College and encourage international links to enhance research outcomes.
3. Source research funding, as appropriate, from a wide range of sources.
4. Support our staff and help them to develop their research practice; encourage internal collaboration; and, through external networks and meetings, enhance subject-specialist knowledge (especially as it relates to teaching and learning).

The Research Strategy addresses the objectives listed under Aim 2 of the Strategic Plan as follows:

**Establish postgraduate programmes to enhance and progress practice-based research and scholarly activity in subject disciplines**

We will:

* Involve members of staff from undergraduate programme areas in the development and delivery of the MA Creative Practice (validated March 2013).
* Ensure that the research and scholarly activity of staff is evident in the lecture and seminar programme and used to inform the curriculum.
* Ensure that MA staff and student research informs subject disciplines through discussion and dissemination at Programme Boards, and Cluster meetings.
* Through internal research events ensure that staff and students are informed of the work of postgraduate staff and students.
* Use staff and student engagement with the MA Creative Practice to inform and support proposals for the development of new postgraduate programmes of study.
* Through engagement of research active staff in the Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee ensure that research, scholarship and practice informs discussion of pedagogical issues.
* Provide internal exhibiting opportunities for postgraduate students

**Develop research across the College and encourage international links to enhance research outcomes**

We will:

Establish distinctive research clusters as follows:

* *Pedagogies -* Researching experience and the ideas around the pedagogy of art and design education
* *Curatorial and Craft Practice -* Exploring collaboration through archives, practice and exhibition opportunities
* *Crossing Borders -* Exploring national and international links and cross-disciplinary activity.
* *Technology -* Exploring Art and technology at the intersection of society.
* We will focus a proportion (one fifth) of the available resource (Academic Research Budget on these distinctive research clusters in order to:
* Appoint cluster leaders who will lead, convene, organise and report on the progress of the clusters to the Head of Research.
* Harness resources such as those available internally for research, scholarship and CPD to increase the number and quality of research outputs year on year.
* Increase the number of externally facing workshops; exhibitions; seminars and conferences
* Increase participation in dissemination events.
* Develop evidence-based and practice-led research links locally, nationally and internationally.
* Develop research and scholarly activity that will have measurable impact.
* Encourage engagement in evidence-based and practice-led research.
* Develop existing international links and work with the Head of Internationalisation to increase international research links.
* Work with the College departments managing partnerships, marketing and enterprise to increase the impact of our research.

**Source research funding, as appropriate, from a wide range of sources**

We will:

* Support individual membership of the HEA and other appropriate professional bodies using champions and mentoring where appropriate to achieve this.
* Develop external links in order to facilitate collaborative research bids.
* Through internal and external research dissemination and the activities of the Research Clusters raise the research profile of Leeds College of Art to facilitate credible applications for research grants and funding.
* Through the support mechanisms of the distinctive Research Clusters develop and deepen staff expertise to facilitate credible applications for research grants and funding.
* Through engagement with CREST facilitate a greater awareness of the research grant and funding opportunities available.
* Use the resource available for research to facilitate bids for research grants.

**Support our staff and help them to develop their research practice; encourage internal collaboration; and, through external networks and meetings, enhance subject-specialist knowledge (especially as it relates to teaching and learning).**

We will:

* Establish overarching distinctive research clusters to support individual members of staff and encourage cross discipline collaboration.
* Encourage staff to participate in a research cluster.
* Facilitate the writing of an individual research proposal to account for the use of the research time allocation.
* Monitor the use of the research time allocation and review the use of the research resource annually in order to ensure the most effective use of for example, time allocations, and redirect as appropriate.
* Support the continuation of programme –based research clusters where these are operating successfully and encourage these to feed into the distinctive overarching clusters.
* Provide advice and information for research active staff.
* Develop an infrastructure to support applications for HEA fellowship status.
* Through the College’s research proposal system support and encourage involvement in external networks and meetings that enhance subject-specialist knowledge.
* Through the College’s VLE make available advice and guidance on the use of the research resource available.
* Establish annual internal and external research and exhibition dissemination events.
* Through the system for accessing the Academic Research Budget and the Research Proposal system enable staff to engage with the annual CREST research symposium, HEA workshops and other external events.
* Encourage forward planning to increase the number of participants at external events.

**By September 2014** we will have:

Established at least three distinctive cross disciplinary Research Clusters. Each cluster will have:

* a rationale
* aims and objectives
* proposed impacts
* contributed significantly to the College’s research dissemination events

**By September 2015** each cluster will have:

* Presented outcomes e.g. a paper or poster presentation nationally
* Presented outcomes e.g. a paper or poster presentation internationally
* At least two exhibited outcomes
* At least two contributions to refereed journals
* Establish an annual internal staff exhibition in conjunction with the college exhibitions officer that articulates the impact of practice-based research on learning and teaching
* Appoint a post-doctoral junior research fellow

**By September 2016** each cluster will have:

* Continue to apply for external funding where appropriate
* Continued to produce and increase the number of exhibited outcomes
* Continued to produce and increase the number of referred publications
* Establish a stand-alone or in partnership with another organisation an International Conference exhibition in another HEI.

**By September 2017** we will:

* Continue research activity and outputs
* Look at the feasibility of submitting to the REF
* Review the efficacy of the research resourcing
* If appropriate identify staff for the REF and focus the resource appropriately

**By September 2018** we will:

* Continue research activity and outputs
* If appropriate focus the resource on the REF and ensure Ref-able staff have required number of outputs
* Revise the Research Strategy

**Outcomes**

**Internally facing outcomes**

As a result of the Research Strategy 2013-18 we will:

* Establish a vibrant Postgraduate research culture
* Develop robust mechanisms, using the College’s Committee structure, for the integration of research activity into teaching and curriculum development
* Ensure currency both in teaching and subject matter
* Contribute to providing a stimulating environment for staff and students.
* Maximise use of research time and resources
* Establish overarching research clusters for mutual support
* Support researchers to achieve a REF-able standard of work
* Simplify access to academic research budget
* Ensure all HE teaching staff have the opportunity to engage in research, scholarship and practice
* Review resourcing on a regular basis to ensure effective use of time and resources.
* Further develop the Research pages of the VLE
* Establish internal formal and informal research days
* Establish a student research conference
* Appoint a post-doctoral junior research fellow
* Establish an annual internal staff exhibition focused on L&T

**Externally facing outcomes**

As a result of the Research Strategy 2013-18 we will:

* Increase the number of participants at external conferences, workshops etc.
* Increase the number of exhibited outcomes
* Increase papers published in referred journals
* Establish a staff research conference
* Maximise engagement with CREST and the HEA
* Contribute meaningfully to the wider art and design context
* Become a feasible, credible bidding partner for external funding applications
* Increase funding from external sources
* Increase academic engagement with the creative and cultural industries
* Increase membership of the HEA and other professional bodies