



Research Strategy 2023-2030

Originator: Head of Research
Approved by: Academic Board
Effective from: 15 March 2024
Type: Strategy

Previous version: Research Strategy Statement 2019-2021

Context

We are a world-facing, creatively driven community where professional educators, practitioners and researchers collaborate to develop and enable excellence.

Leeds Arts University's research has a transformative impact on local, national, and international communities including communities of creative practitioners. Our research makes a positive difference and creates cultural and social value. Our research also drives the excellent teaching and learning in the University.

Building on our first submission to the research assessment exercise (REF 2021) which followed a period of strategically developing our research activity with all higher education staff, we are now looking towards REF 2029 and a strategy which will further develop and progress impactful research practice. This will be through a research framework made up of 3 pathways as part of a supported environment for established and early career researchers as well as those undertaking PhDs.

Aims:

- Supporting an **inclusive** environment that produces **high-quality, rigorous** research that is **open** to all.
- Promoting a research culture that supports a **diversity** of people, institutions, ideas, methodologies, outputs and activities.
- Nurturing transformative **collaborations** that lead to local, national and international research partnerships.
- Sharing our research with others, bringing about positive changes in culture, practice and society through **public engagement** and **impact activities**.

These aims will be met by:

- 1) Providing transparent systems that support researchers to create outputs that are recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- 2) Setting clear expectations for those who are supported to undertake research, that they act with openness, honesty, care, respect and are accountable for their actions.
- 3) Growing external grant income to achieve financial sustainability for research activities.
- 4) Providing a means to conduct open and responsible research through training and inclusion in our University repository.
- 5) Developing our research facilities, archives and resources to support excellence in research.
- 6) Providing developmental opportunities for established and early career researchers to flourish in their research careers, bringing in specialist external

support when needed.

- 7) Working towards the registration of PhD students.
- 8) Ensuring that research from across the University is recognised including that created by small teams. This is important because a large proportion of our researchers work in Unit of Assessment (UoA) 32 (Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory) but this should not obscure the smaller number contributing to UoA 33 (Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies) and UoA 27 (English Language and Literature).
- 9) Recognising that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strengthen our University and expand our research activities.
- 10) Encouraging our researchers to build strategic collaborations that maximise their research and impact potential.
- 11) Working in partnership with appropriate communities and organisations in the public and private sectors to create opportunities for meaningful international engagement and reach.
- 12) Disseminating our research through public engagement and impact activities that draw upon our specialist creative arts discipline areas.
- 13) Monitoring our progress through reports to the SMT, Academic Board and the Board of Governors.