

Research and Innovation Plan

2017-2020



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Message from the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor

Griffith University has a central vision to be one of the most influential universities in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region and to deliver this influence through outstanding scholarship and research, and the contributions that the outcomes of that scholarship make to our local, national and international communities.

We articulate a mission around believing in a remarkable tomorrow, in doing our best and supporting others to do theirs. We've never lost sight of our progressive beginnings and everything we do—from education to research and community engagement—is designed to not only meet, but improve the new world our students, graduates and communities will encounter.

We noted in the previous iteration of this Plan that the capacity to meet these commitments is heavily invested in the strength and quality of the research fabric of the University, and this remains the case. This Research and Innovation Plan identifies the goals, targets and strategies through which we will continue to deliver research of high standard and relevance, framed against a national agenda of better translation of research outcomes into innovative services, processes and products.

The University now appears in the top 400 in all major rankings of the world's universities, has consistently met publication output targets, and has increased its citation visibility by 80% over the life of the previous Research Plan. The increase in quality of our research outputs was endorsed by the ERA 2015 exercise where 98% of our research outputs were submitted in fields of research rated at world standard or above at the broad level of classification of fields of research.



Key themes of our previous Research Plan 2013–2017 were consolidation of strengths while at the same time lifting the average quality of research across the whole research portfolio. Much of this is now in place and the next phase of the plan addresses balancing the non-exclusive demands of meeting the highest levels of international research excellence, and managing an innovation agenda that ensures the best possible public and commercial outcomes from the best research. In execution of the Plan, we also need to ensure that we are effective in telling our stories of research excellence and impact in both the formal setting of Engagement and Impact assessment but also as a central part of the University's narrative.

The University's previous two Research Plans carried the key message: "research and research training of the highest quality is an integral part of the character of all top universities, and Griffith is committed to supporting staff, students and stakeholders in achieving that outcome for the communities we serve". This central commitment remains a priority for the University.

Ned Pankhurst
Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor

Research and innovation context

The Griffith 2020 agenda that formed the basis of the 2013–2017 University Strategic Plan identified five high level goals and these remain relevant for the next planning iteration.

- To provide an excellent educational experience to attract and retain students who, regardless of their background, will succeed at university and become graduates of influence.
- To continuously improve our research performance and, through our research, deliver social dividends.
- To attract and retain excellent staff who through their teaching, research, professional support and engagement, will positively contribute to Griffith's development as a university of influence.
- To be a sustainable university.
- To enhance our engagement with Asia and the near Pacific and to consolidate our reputation as one of Australia's most Asian-engaged universities.

In addition to these University- level planning priorities, there have been several significant realignments in national priority setting for universities, and the research sector in general. These are captured through the Commonwealth Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA), launched in December 2015. NISA was in turn the product of the earlier Watt Review into national research policy and funding, and presents a range of actions designed to stimulate innovation, create a culture of entrepreneurship, co-investment and collaboration, and support economic growth through more effective adoption of innovation.

The agenda includes 24 measures grouped under four key themes: collaboration, talent and skills, culture and capital, and Government as an exemplar. Predominantly, it is the measures identified under the Collaboration theme that are the most directly relevant to universities, in that they offer the most opportunities for the sector, as well as potentially having the most impact on universities. A key part of this is the change in the distribution of Commonwealth Block Grant funding, with research income (more heavily weighted for industry contributions) and Higher Degree Research (HDR) student completions becoming the sole determinants of funding support. The Griffith strategy focuses on these measures, in areas where we can capitalize on our expertise and relationships to generate the best outcomes and returns.

In a companion exercise, the Commonwealth Government commissioned the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) to undertake a review of Australia's research training system, and the review was in turn fully accepted by Government in November 2016. The review recommendations align strongly with the NISA, with a focus on industry–university collaboration, highlighting the role and importance of Higher Degree Research (HDR) in improving industry–university collaboration. The overarching message of the report is the need to: strengthen the preparation of graduates for breadth of future roles; create more opportunities for research students to engage with industry through their research; add more flexibility to entry pathways, and collect better information about the outcomes for research degree graduates to inform prospective candidates and confirm the value derived from research degrees.

Despite the shift in funding formulas, and the increasing national and Government emphasis on innovation and commercialization, the primary research product of a University remains intellectual capital in the form of its publication base. This provides both the tangible evidence of validated (peer- reviewed) research outcomes and the basis for academic impact through citation.

These in turn provide the raw material for most university ranking schemes, the primary data source for the national Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation, as well as supporting the development of innovation and impact through the delivery of policy, services and products. In this context the next cycle of the plan addresses maintaining suitable institutional levels of research output but with an emphasis on continual improvement of research publication quality. This includes maintaining recognition of creative works as an important part of our portfolio of research outputs.



Research and Innovation at Griffith

Griffith has an overarching goal in research to continuously improve performance in research performance and through that research, deliver social dividends. This is expressed in terms of research income, the proportion of that income sourced from industry or end-users, return on investment in specific strategic programs, HDR student load and completions, external validation of publication quality through ERA assessments and citation performance, and the identification of tangible evidence of research impact.

External research income over the period of the previous plan was \$62.4, \$67.7 and \$72.8 million for 2013, 2014, and 2015 respectively, with between 50 and 60% of that income sourced from industry and other end-users. The current plan maintains the expectation of expanding research income and greater flows of funding from industry and end-users. Part of this requires development of a greater sense of membership of an innovation community bringing together staff, students and external stakeholders and partners.

Since 2009, the University has supported key research themes through an Areas of Strategic Investment (ASI) program and that commitment continues into this Plan. By the end of 2015 (the last year for which full figures are available), the University had invested \$48.4 million on the program and this had generated a return of \$64.1 million in direct external research income and a further \$60 million in partially attributable external income, to give a total return of \$2.53 for every dollar invested. This supported a growth in total research publications of 5% annually over the period and improvements in citation rates and ERA ratings that are largely attributable to ASI performance.

In 2015, the University launched a 'next stage' strategy through the 2020 Research program funding with allocation of \$20 million for 'step change' projects. That investment has targeted; key senior appointments directed at securing research leadership succession, internationalisation of key research themes, the development of platforms for managing big data, and positioning the University for more explicit support of innovative research-industry partnerships. This complements the expansion of our industry- and end user-funded research which now accounts for 60% of total University research income.



The ASI and 2020 programs complement our ongoing and substantial investment in thematic research activity captured through our University Research Centres and Institutes, as the major platform for delivery of our research performance. The Centres and Institutes in turn support a research growth ecosystem for the nurturing and development of early and mid-career Griffith researchers. This is underpinned by a commitment to professionalism and quality in the delivery of research support services through the Office for Research, the Griffith Graduate Research School, Griffith Enterprise and other central elements of the University.

A sustained program of investment in HDR fee and stipend scholarships has lifted the HDR student load from 1270 at the beginning of the previous Plan, to 1612 in 2016. Over this period, annual HDR completions increased from 185 in 2012, to 354 in 2016, (an increase of completions as a proportion of load from 14.6% to a near sector average value of 21.1%). This has been supported by administrative process, resource support and supervision improvements that position the University for appropriate execution of the ACOLA recommendations over the life of the new Plan.

The Australian Research Council released its national report (ERA 2015) in December 2015. The report covered a reference period for research outputs 2008-2013, and research income from 2011-2013, and captured performance from the early part of the previous Plan. Ninety-eight percent of Griffith's research at the broad (2-digit) level of research classification was rated at or above world standard (85% in ERA 2012), and 92% at the specific (4-digit) level of classification (63% in ERA 2012). In ERA 2012, 12 out of 51 (23%) specific fields of research were rated at above, or well above world standard.

This improved in ERA 2015 to 33 out of 59 (56%) specific fields of research rated as above or well above world standard. There has been a corresponding improvement in Griffith's institutional citation performance with an increase in annual citations from 25,163 in 2012 to 54,775 in 2016. The improvement is result of the targeted investment and improvement strategies activated over the life of the previous two research Plans. This momentum will be carried into this Plan and the ERA 2018 assessment process.

The tangible impacts of University research have been formalised through the development of a research impact register and this is being used as the basis for pending Commonwealth assessments and in terms of telling our story. It is also supporting development of a culture where fundamental research is more strongly recognised as one step in a value chain that supports innovation and outcomes. These considerations frame our goals for this Research and Innovation Plan.

We are defining our future around a remarkable tomorrow but how will we know when we have achieved this? In the Research and Innovation context, remarkable means diversified and increased research income at levels suitable to support our expanding activities and aspirations; the emergence of very large (>\$10 million) translational research programs in areas of great societal need; staff who are routinely recognised as being the very best in their fields; HDR graduates who are sought after and visibly successful in their chosen careers; research outputs that create futures and change the way that people think, and research stories that raise heads wherever they are told. This will occur within a framework of unrelenting commitment to equity, sustainability and international engagement.

Research and Innovation Goals

GOAL 1.

Research income

The capacity of the University to deliver on our aspirational and ambitious research agenda remains essentially dependent on our ability to generate research-related income both in terms of the direct support for research, and the leverage funding provided through the Commonwealth Government's Research Block Grant (RBG) schemes. Historically, our focus has been on increasing the share of Australian Competitive Grant (ACG) success, and Griffith continues to be highly successful in this respect, with ACG income for 2016 accounting for ~40% (\$30 million) of the University's total research income. ACG income remains a primary indicator of institutional research quality, but in the face of both intense competition for at-best static funding pools, and the shifting priorities for RBG funding under the NISA agenda, there are strong drivers for development and expansion of a more diversified research income portfolio. This requires emphasis on increasing income from new funding sources, across both industry and end user-, and philanthropy-supported research.

Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To expand and diversify the research income portfolio	To increase external research income by 7.5% per annum

Strategies

1.1	Support Expression of Interest quality-control processes for all major ACG schemes, with emphasis on research element-level quality control and decision making.
1.2	Focus senior research appointments on researchers with proven research income track records or demonstrable ability to build such track records quickly.
1.3	Focus junior research appointments on researchers with publication track records that are ACG- competitive. Cluster Early Career Researchers (ECR) with proven ACG winners for joint applications.
1.4	Strengthen research income performance targets in staff Research Performance definitions (and see Strategy 3.1).
1.5	Engage with State initiatives to form consortia for presenting Queensland research capabilities to industry and end-users.
1.6	With Development and Alumni, target foundations and bequests in areas of both strong research performance, and track records of timely delivery of outcomes.
1.7	Prosecute an innovation agenda with a primary objective of growing research income and diversity (and see Goal 2).
1.8	Activate project teams from multiple central and academic units for program-scale applications to State and Commonwealth innovation support schemes (and see Strategy 2.3).
1.9	Mirror Commonwealth block grant allocations for research income in determining Research Support Program allocations within the University.

GOAL 2.

Research benefit

The challenge for modern universities is to suitably position fundamental research as knowledge capital in a value chain where there is a stated intent to maximise the translation of research outputs into outcomes. This requires a shift in cultural perspective whereby researchers identify potential or intended outcomes and end-users of research, early in the process of project and program planning, and design approaches to the research that maximise the likelihood of achieving translatable outcomes. This is essential both in terms of developing suitably diversified research income streams (Goal 1), and having the capacity to engage effectively with governments, stakeholders and end users. The currency for this engagement is the conversion of knowledge into policies, services and products that through innovation, make tangible and measurable contributions to social and economic well-being. Achieving this requires an activated and suitably skilled and oriented workforce, active and ongoing engagement with industry and end-users, and effective engagement in State and Commonwealth Government partnerships as a fulcrum for mobilising industry-facing research teams around large scale projects.



Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To build a culture of research innovation that supports the translation of research outcomes into policy, services and products.	To directly engage at least 30% of academic and relevant professional staff in innovation and commercialisation activities. To maintain income from contract and commercial research, technology transfer and enterprise at greater than 25% of the research income total.

Strategies

2.1	Leverage University research strengths to create competitive offerings targeting attractive markets and end users. Manage this engagement through effective integration of project identification, tendering, management and reporting.
2.2	Develop broader, highly collaborative and innovative partnerships capable of offering multi-faceted solutions to complex problems (and see Strategy 1.7).
2.3	Continually review the University's translatable research opportunity spectrum and prioritise high value projects for support.
2.4	Target State and Commonwealth Government schemes for leveraging funding from industry directed at State and National innovation priorities.
2.5	Enhance and support the visibility of staff rewards through academic probation, review and promotion processes in relation to research translation and commercialisation.



GOAL 3.

Research excellence

The attainment of research goals in publication outputs, research income, reputation and the capacity to innovate is strongly dependent on the University's capacity for internationally-benchmarked research excellence. This is directly supported by strategic resource allocation through University Research Centre and Institute funding, the ASI and Griffith 2020 Research programs and associated investment in critical research infrastructure. Key components for achieving this are developing and maintaining critical mass in areas of demonstrated research excellence, and providing explicit pathways for the recruitment and development of research leaders. Griffith has significant areas of strong research performance that are still critically dependent on the activity and leadership of individual 'research champions'. This Plan addresses the need to broaden and strengthen emerging research leadership. Research champions are also central to our capacity to attract and shape applicants for prestige fellowships, and to conceptualise and lead bids for Centres of Excellence or equivalent.

Underpinning this is the management of performance of individual staff, supported by research performance guidelines and associated staff review and reward processes. This includes the need to maintain staff recruitment processes that emphasize research capacity, fit with Griffith's research priorities and career-long research trajectories. Excellent staff in turn need excellent facilities and physical and electronic research infrastructure. The priority for this Plan is to integrate discipline-generated infrastructure initiatives into broader University planning through the provision and support of centrally-supported core research facilities capable of operating across structural and discipline boundaries.



Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To promote, and support research excellence.	Greater than 90% of academic staff with a research role assessed as satisfactory in annual assessment of research performance.

Strategies

3.1	Embed revised research performance guidelines in academic staff review and promotion processes.
3.2	Manage oversight of recruitment processes to ensure that research performance, fit and trajectory are key components of all relevant appointment decisions.
3.3	Celebrate staff success through internal award schemes, and support for external recognition.
3.4	Confirm leadership succession approaches for all key research areas, including dedicated mentoring for leadership aspirants.
3.5	Form 'expert teams' for developing approaches to Laureate Fellowship, ARC Centres of Excellence and other 'prestige award' schemes.
3.6	Target a minimum of three Laureate applicants and one Griffith-led ARC CoE in each application round.
3.7	Appoint a Dean (Research Infrastructure) in support of University-wide approaches to research infrastructure planning, acquisition and management.
3.8	Consolidate the existing three core research facilities and introduce three more over the life of this Plan.
3.9	Establish a suite of research data management platforms as a top priority for the research component of the Electronic Infrastructure Capital Plan.



GOAL 4.

Research training

Griffith maintains the view that the presence of a large and vibrant graduate research student community is an essential part of its research fabric, and this is borne out by the observation that all of the top research universities in the world are characterised by large HDR student loads, high rates of completion, and HDR students as a proportion of total student load in excess of 10%. Griffith has substantially increased its HDR load over recent years as part of a targeted and sustained increase in internally funded PhD scholarships, and also by increasing its share of Commonwealth-funded PhD students as a result of improved research performance. HDR load in 2012 was 13th nationally and represented ~3.5% of total student load. This had increased to ~5% of total student load by 2016.

Parallel attention to improving completion rates through streamlined administrative processes, publication-oriented milestones for students and improved training and support for supervisors increased annual HDR completions from 185 to 354 over the same period. This has been supported by compounding load and completion targets in the previous Research Plan, designed to lift both indicators from what was considered to be an unacceptably low level. The targets were directed towards achieving 300 completions per year, placing Griffith at the national average relative to load. It is now clear that we can expect to sustain higher load and completion figures and instead, concentrate our attention on the attraction and retention of the highest quality students clustered around our strongest areas of research performance, using the thematic focus provided through the University's Research Centres and Institutes. In doing this, we will also use the guidance of the ACOLA review to embed greater industry and end-user experience in our programs, and also develop better understanding of how to support the needs of HDR students intending to work outside of academia.

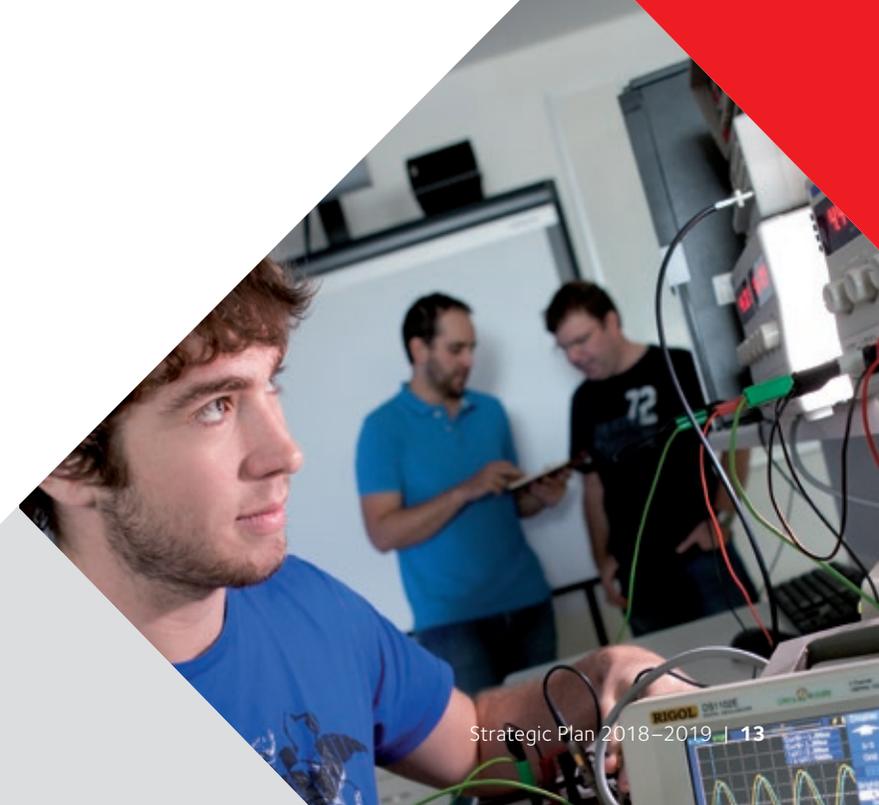


Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To maintain the load of high quality HDR students needed to support completion targets and student career outcomes	HDR completions to be maintained above 400 per year by 2020. Student career outcomes (HDR-relevant employment) to be maintained at or above national averages.

Strategies

4.1	Use HDR completion figures as the basis for distribution of the Research Training Program component of Commonwealth funds, in a way that mirrors the Commonwealth funding to the University.
4.2	Include HDR load and completion targets in planning and performance assessment at Group, School, Centre and Institute and individual staff levels.
4.3	Refine merit-based processes for strategic allocation of Commonwealth and University-funded HDR scholarships.
4.4	Activate Research Centres and Institutes as the base of coordinated strategies for recruitment of high quality domestic and international HDR students.
4.5	Increase the frequency, intensity and reach of supervisor support and training activities.
4.6	Reinforce the support for, and the seniority of HDR Convenors in all Academic Elements.
4.7	Introduce industry or end-user facing components of all HDR programs in line with ACOLA Review recommendations.
4.8	Develop and implement a HDR development framework and program which includes transferable skills relevant to industry and end-users.
4.9	Track employment and career outcomes of current, and all past HDR students.
4.10	Acknowledge HDR student contribution and success as part of Griffith's research story (and see Goal 5).



GOAL 5.

Research outputs

Publication of research outputs, including creative works, remains the main currency for evaluation of institutional and individual research performance, and provides the intellectual capital for the translation of outputs into outcomes. It will also continue to be the keystone for ERA assessment for the for-seeable future. This means that despite research outputs no longer influencing Commonwealth RBG funding, they are still the base for every other aspect of research performance. In recognition of this, Griffith's internal distribution of RBG funding will still contain a component based on volume of publication outputs. As articulated in the previous Research Plan, publication volume and quality both have equal importance, and in support of this, staff research performance guidelines have been revised to allow greater Academic Element discretion in the assessment of research quality against discipline norms.

The Plan also recognizes the increasing importance of HDR candidates to this aspect of the research performance, with 30.6% of Griffith's 2015 HERDC eligible outputs including an HDR candidate as an author. This is supported by the expansion of post-submission Publication Assistance Scholarships to promote the twin objectives of timely thesis completion and the publication of thesis-based research in the primary literature. The University will also continue to provide financial incentives for publications in the prestige journals Nature and Science which contribute significantly to the University's performance in international ranking schemes. Consideration will be given to expanding this scheme where it can be demonstrated that such publication measurably enhances the University's ranking or reputation.



Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To at least maintain the total volume, and to continuously improve quality of research outputs.	Quantity — As a minimum, maintain the current level of University research output. Quality — To increase the number of Field of Research codes in ERA that are above world standard. Quality — To achieve relative citation impact higher than the Australian average.

Strategies

5.1	Emphasize publication quality in assessment of staff research performance –using redefined Staff Research Performance guidelines.
5.2	Maintain publication requirement for HDR thesis submission, with continuing support through post- submission Publication Assistance Scholarships.
5.3	Maintain a Nature and Science publication incentive scheme.
5.4	Regularly benchmark citation performance against current Australian and global discipline-specific citation norms and use ERA metrics as a tool for internal tracking of publication quality.
5.5	Continue to use ERA guidelines to classify and report on research through creative works.



GOAL 6.

Research communication

There are two drivers for effective University dissemination and communication of research outputs and their impacts. The first is the role that publications themselves and distillations of their content, intent and impact have in building the reputation of the University, and in providing the bridge between basic research and the understanding of its relevance by governments and other stakeholders and potential end users. The increasing attention to how knowledge translates into outcomes, and how these in turn generate societal and economic impacts has been key to investment by governments into research. Formalising that contribution is increasingly the focus of assessment of the value proposition represented by investment in public universities by governments, and in Australia, is about to be tested by a pilot as the first attempt to quantify and describe research engagement and impact from Australian universities.

The second is the collective requirement of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) for universities to deposit publication outputs from NHMRC- and ARC- funded research into open-access repositories. These developments align closely with international trends where the requirement by funding agencies for open access to research outputs is well-established. In order to both comply with these requirements, and to improve the visibility of Griffith research publications, Griffith will continue its strong progress in building the scale, scope and accessibility of its publication repository. It is now also well established that the citation profile of an institution's publication output is strongly enhanced if those outputs are directly accessible through institutional websites, and this brings reputational value as well as improving positioning for ERA assessments.

An enabler of research communication is the capacity to curate and share data collections both in terms of their capacity to support collaborations and further research, but also to allow suitable re-use of publically-funded data collections. Accordingly, this Plan supports strategies which enhance data management, curation and access by both internal and external users.

In Griffith's terms, these drivers provide impetus to better focus on how and where we tell our stories of research achievement and impact and how these form part of Griffith's Remarkable narrative.

Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To maximise the visibility of Griffith research achievements and impacts.	By 2020 to be recognised as a leader in open access to research outputs and data. To develop and maintain University research excellence and impact registers as collateral for telling our research stories. To have high external visibility of our research profile and activity across all media channels.

Strategies

6.1	Continue to benchmark publication and data repository processes and platforms against international best practice.
6.2	Implement policies, services and systems to maximise the value and availability of research data assets.
6.3	Use the 2017 ARC Engagement and Impact Assessment pilot and 2018 full assessment to formalise our strategy and process for identifying, preparing and collating impact case-studies.
6.4	Refine impact and research excellence narratives through respective registers.
6.5	Activate register material through an annual research communication plan, integrated with the University's branding and marketing campaigns, using multiple media channels and outlets including social media.
6.6	Reposition our web presence around the innovation context for all of our research domains.



GOAL 7.

Staffing and equity

Griffith has an overarching goal to attract and retain excellent staff who through their teaching, research and professional support positively contribute to Griffith's development as a university of influence. Through the Our People plan, the University is committed to conveying clear expectations in relation to staff performance through; use of relevant external benchmarking data to monitor the University's performance across key activities, regular reviews of our policies relating to staff performance, clear articulation of performance standards in all areas of our activities, a committed approach to performance management, refining our reward and incentive structures to encourage and reward high performance, and supporting our supervisors and managers to lead for high performance through a suite of high quality leadership development programs. This overall objective of a high performing university is under- pinned by the following three strategies: recruiting and retaining the right people; developing our people, and valuing diversity.

These principles resonate strongly in the research domain in terms of setting expectations for regular and fair assessment of performance, reward for excellence and support for leadership development, and these are issues that are addressed in earlier parts of the Plan. The University has previously identified some specific equity challenges for the research portfolio, including increasing the proportions of female staff in senior academic positions, and in the development of a coherent strategy in support of Indigenous staff representation and activity in research. It is pleasing to note progress (7 out of 21 University Research Centre and Institute Directors are now female (there was one female Director at the beginning of the last Plan), there is a cohort of 25 Indigenous PhD students and a merit-based Indigenous postdoctoral Fellow program is now in place. However, there is still much to do and the next phase of the Plan concentrates on increasing the proportion of female staff in research-related roles at all levels in the University, and translating research and training success among Indigenous students into academic and professional staff career tracks.



Goal and target

GOAL	TARGET
To increase the proportion of females in research-related roles, and research leadership positions. To support increasing numbers of Indigenous HDR graduates into research-related career tracks.	50% of Research Centre and Institute Directors to be female. 50% of research intensive staff to be female. To reflect Equity Plan targets for Indigenous employment in research-related roles.

Strategies

7.1	Attract and retain high-performing staff by providing a research environment that supports quality and research performance.
7.2	Continue recruitment of high-performing staff in selected areas of research excellence through strategic resource allocation.
7.3	Attract, support and reward key professional support staff in research development, management and commercialisation.
7.4	Support Academic Groups in the identification, recruitment, retention and research mentoring of female academic staff.
7.5	Provide support for the University's engagement in the Athena Swan Charter (through the Science in Australia Gender Equity program).
7.6	Pilot a program of research leadership training for women at Griffith.
7.7	Continue to support the development of Indigenous research capacity through competitively-allocated HDR scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships.
7.8	Support the Indigenous Research Network (IRN) as a community of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous research scholars under the guidance of the Academic Director of Indigenous activities.



Sustainability

The goal 'To be a sustainable university' is one of five key goals identified in the Griffith 2020 strategy and is codified through the University's Sustainability Policy, which expresses the University's intention to embed sustainability across all elements of the University.

The Policy in turn informs the Sustainability Plan 2017–2020 which sets out a strategic framework for delivery of the University's sustainability agenda and specific objectives with respect to research. Griffith's research has from the outset, had a strong sustainability component and this continues in the current research portfolio. Since 2000, there have been at least 490 research outputs indexed in the Web of Science directly focussed on sustainability, and these articles have cited 5,544 times, with citations exceeding the average for all Griffith publications. The subject areas (Web of Science classifications) with the highest publishing frequency are environmental studies, tourism, environmental sciences, management, environmental engineering, educational research, and energy and water resources, with Griffith ranking 4th nationally for publications in sustainability-related research between 2000 and 2016.



International engagement

Griffith University was established with a strong focus on the Asian region as one of its founding principles. We were the first University to develop and offer a degree in Modern Asian Studies and many of our discipline areas are heavily engaged in Asia-relevant research.

International research targets and strategies are described in the Griffith Internationalisation Strategy 2014–2017. Significant areas of research collaboration include environmental and water sciences, nanotechnology, materials science, medical sciences, languages and applied linguistics, disaster management, and the creative and performing arts.

Griffith's Asian research strategy is currently most strongly developed with China and this serves as a useful model for engagement more broadly across the region. Griffith currently ranks 12th nationally amongst institutions publishing with China (2012–2016). From 2012 to 2016, Griffith produced 1350 joint publications with China. Our top publication partner in China is the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), followed by other top ranking Chinese institutions (in order, UCAS, Chinese University of Hong Kong, East China University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Tsinghua University). Griffith publications with CAS attract on average nearly twice as many citations as publication with partners from top Australian universities.

We will continue to support our strong Asian links in China and elsewhere through strategic support of research champions, institutional visits and agreements, joint PhD programs and joint applications for funding through country to country agreements. These partnerships will be complemented by our strong relationships outside of Asia including joint collaborative research programs with Simon Fraser University, and the University of Southern Denmark. These long standing partnerships are transitioning into support for larger longer term collaborative research projects and PhD programs.



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