



Research Strategy 2017-2020

Strategy

Our vision is to be recognised for outstanding transformational research that meets the needs of business, government and wider society. We also aim to be renowned for our impact and influence – regionally, nationally and internationally, being recognised as ‘closest to business’.

To achieve this we will provide:

- academic staff recognised as thought-leaders,
- critical intellectual mass,
- innovative business-engaged research,
- leadership for national facilities,
- high impact and highly-cited research outputs.

We will monitor our performance in:

- achieving 400 fully research active staff,
- increasing research income,
- improving numbers of papers in the top journals,
- growing the impact of our research.

Our high-quality research spans the technology readiness levels, from the generation of ideas through to their implementation. Our world-leading programmes of fundamental research underpin research that is close to business. Many of these programmes access research facilities that are on an industrial scale.

Rationale

The research funding landscape is continually changing. Cranfield has responded to these challenges and continues to do so. Our current Research Strategy and its associated work streams were designed to cover the period until the end of 2017 calendar year. Significant changes have included the Government’s priority on global challenges, Industry Strategy, the regional agenda and implications for Horizon 2020 funding.

To remain competitively placed to pursue our ambitions and to respond to current opportunities and threats a critical review of our research strategy was undertaken in line with the review of the Education Strategy undertaken by Education Committee. No significant changes from the initial objectives for research have been made.

Structure

The objectives retain continuity from 2014-2017, being to deliver for Cranfield’s Corporate Plan 400 research active staff by increasing: research income (pounds); quality of PhDs (PhDs); and research outputs (papers). This will continue to be done through the set of work streams defined in the previous research strategy.

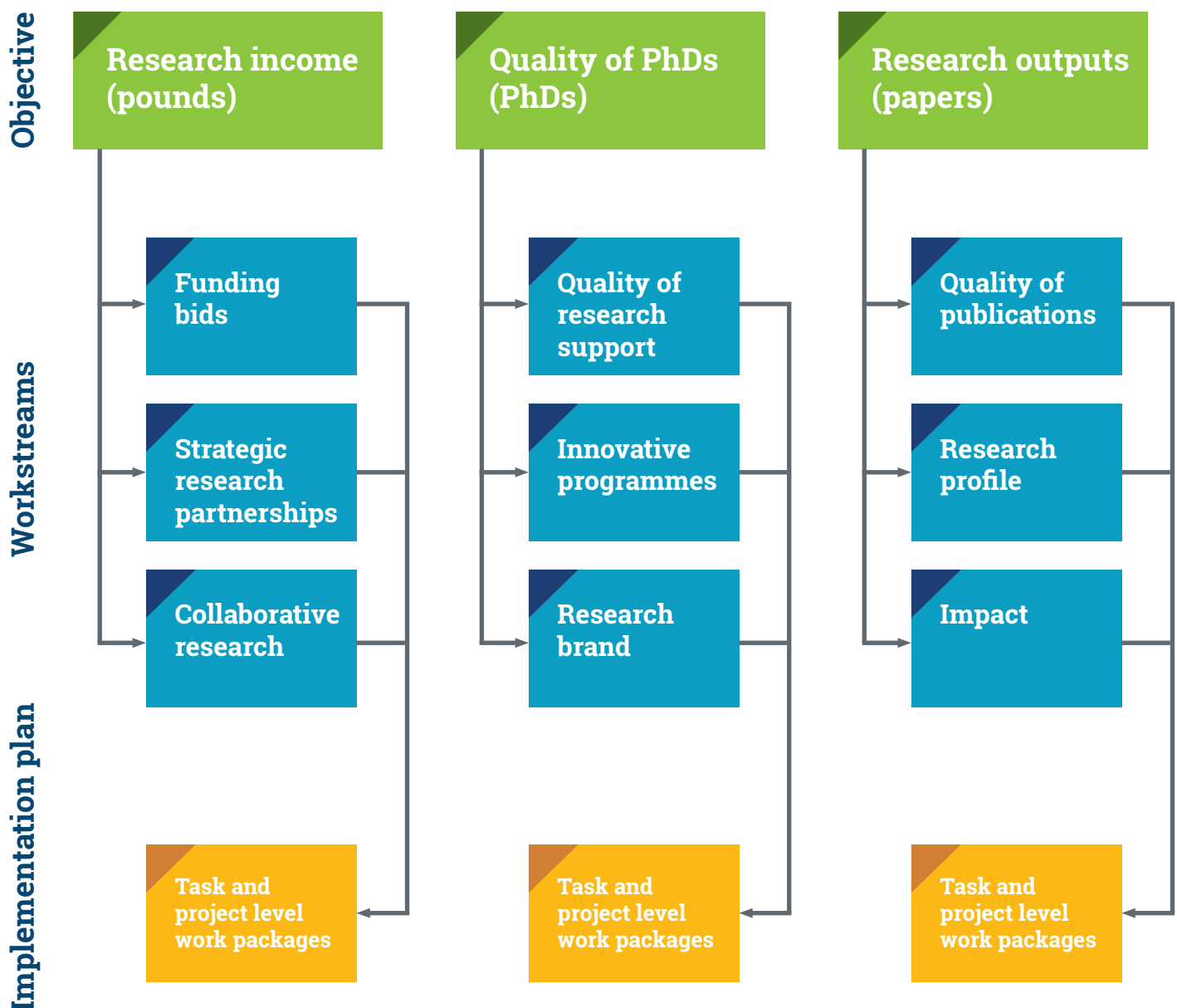
Each work stream will define a number of work packages. In line with the approach being taken for the Education Strategy, these task and project level work packages will be regularly reviewed and reprogramed by the Research and Innovation Office in consultation with the Directors of Research and Research Committee to reflect changing priorities and emerging opportunities.

Dissemination and management of the strategy

The Research Strategy, including its associated work streams, will be shared publically not only with all our staff and students but also with the wider community alongside the Education Strategy as a key strategy of the University.

The implementation plan, comprising the task and project level work packages will be able to be managed in an agile and responsive manner by the Research and Innovation Office responsible to PVC Research and Innovation. Progress against this implementation plan will be reviewed regularly with Senate, but the detailed projects will not be included within the externally published strategy.

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Description of work streams

Research income

Funding bids

To support an ambitious programme of research funding bids directed at the major funding bodies and industry and taking account of the changing funding landscape in Europe.

Strategic research partnerships

To enhance and grow our strategic research partnerships, which will be supported by business development managers and underpinned by contractual and financial rigour.

Collaborative research

To enhance our intellectual critical mass and build track record by extending the reach and scope of our research collaborations within Cranfield and with other universities and research organisations regionally, nationally and internationally.

Quality of PhDs

Quality of research support

To enhance the quality of supervision and support provided to our doctoral students and early career researchers by supporting research communities, providing development opportunities and underpinning policies.

Innovative programmes

To identify, initiate and implement innovations in doctoral programmes, including professional doctorates, DBA and EngD, which meet the needs of a diversifying, international market.

Research brand

To strengthen our research brand and academic research profiles in order to attract and retain the best quality PhD students and researchers.

Research outputs

Quality of publications

To help staff to publish their research in high quality, open access journals.

Research profile

To raise the profile and impact of our research by providing support to raise the level of citations, undertake outreach and develop news stories and case studies.

Impact

Inform and enable the capture and development of high quality examples of the impact of our research on academic advances, society and the economy.