

# RESEARCH PLAN 2021-2025

## OUR ASPIRATIONS

### VISION

By 2030, UniSQ will be recognised as a world-class, research-intensive university, renowned for industry engagement and community impact in a dynamic, research ecosystem.

Research is an integral part of being a university. It underpins our recognition as a university and is a core part of the academic endeavour through the development of new knowledge. This research can inform teaching, improve our understanding of the world, and deliver new technological advances.

Over the coming decade, the University of Southern Queensland will be transformed into a vibrant research environment, spanning all our disciplines. We will be known for our distinctive strengths, and our commitment to delivering solutions for the end-users of our research.

### GOALS

- Exceed the 2030 Provider Category Standards
- Improve International Rankings
- Achieve national and international leadership in key flagship areas: agriculture, health, space and defence and regional development
- Create and nurture strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with our communities

### MISSION

We will be a catalyst for industry growth, innovation and community prosperity and well-being, through focussed, high quality research and high quality research training.

## OUR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

Our vision for the next five years, and looking out to 2030, is ambitious. Our aspirations to achieve national and international recognition for our flagship areas of agriculture, health, space and defence and regional development; to grow our Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student population and research capacity will be enabled through the implementation of a research investment plan, which provides the resourcing to implement our Research Plan.

We encourage and expect our academic staff to undertake scholarly research and to disseminate this knowledge through quality research publications, training future researchers – our HDR students – through their day-to-day teaching activities, and to the broader community. Our research must inspire us and our stakeholders, but also deliver value to industry and our communities.

Consistent with the UniSQ Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Research Plan acknowledges the increasing disruption in our global community and the impacts of a fast-changing world and aims to respond to these challenges in a research context. The plan is focussed on strengthening UniSQ's

research position into the future through the growth in quality and quantity of our research outcomes, and the impact they will have on our communities.

To realise our mission, we will engage broadly with industry and our communities. Our research capabilities that underpin our flagships in agriculture, health, space and defence and regional development are critical to delivering a unique value proposition to our stakeholders.



## OUR PERFORMANCE

Our success will be measured by:

- Increasing active participation in research to 76%
- Ensuring the production of quality research outcomes and achieving an average Field Weighted Citation Index across the University of >2
- Producing 3 high quality research publications per academic per annum
- Delivering an outstanding HDR student experience with strong connections to industry
- Achieving a Times Higher Education World Ranking in the Top 351-400
- Growing our research income to \$45 million
- Growing our HDR student population
- Achieving 150 HDR student completions per annum

The UniSQ Research Plan directly supports all four components of the UniSQ Strategic Plan 2021-2025:

- Build a better future with our communities
- Translate ideas and knowledge into opportunities
- Be innovative, engaged and forward-thinking
- Create vibrant hubs of education and research

## OUR STRATEGIES

### ENHANCE RESEARCH CULTURE, AND DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN RESEARCH

- Broaden the base of research across the University, through increasing active participation in research
- Focus on recruitment of active researchers into Academic Positions
- Achieve a more robust staffing structure, integrating teaching and research more seamlessly
- Invest in workforce capability to support our research strengths and the growth of emerging strengths
- Implement the SAGE Athena Swan Action Plan

### BUILD RESEARCH CAPACITY AMONG OUR STAFF TO DELIVER INCREASED RESEARCH INCOME AND PUBLICATIONS

- Provide skill development programs to build staff capability for both research grant applications and high quality publications
- Continue the Research Capacity Building Grants scheme
- Continue a modified form of the Quartile 1 Challenge
- Invest in mentoring for staff to build confidence in a competitive environment
- Expand the competitive grants external review program

### STRENGTHEN HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) PROGRAMS – SCALE, QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

- Implement outcomes of the Graduate Research School Review
- Review HDR programs to enhance attractiveness and efficiency
- Strengthen our HDR supervision support
- Build the industry placement program

### STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Develop new significant research partnerships with end-users (at scale)
- Develop a clear strategy for each of our flagship areas, identifying end-user needs and required capabilities
- Invest in partnerships, focussing on flagship areas, seeking a 5:1 return on cash investment
- Invest in equipment and facilities to support flagship areas and other priorities

### ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR RESEARCH FUNDING MODEL

- Develop a five year budget strategy for research
- Develop a budget devolution model based on research performance to increase responsibility and accountability of Institutes, Centres and Schools
- Improve understanding of research project budgeting
- Improve research reporting – for both research projects, and management reporting – to underpin a performance culture