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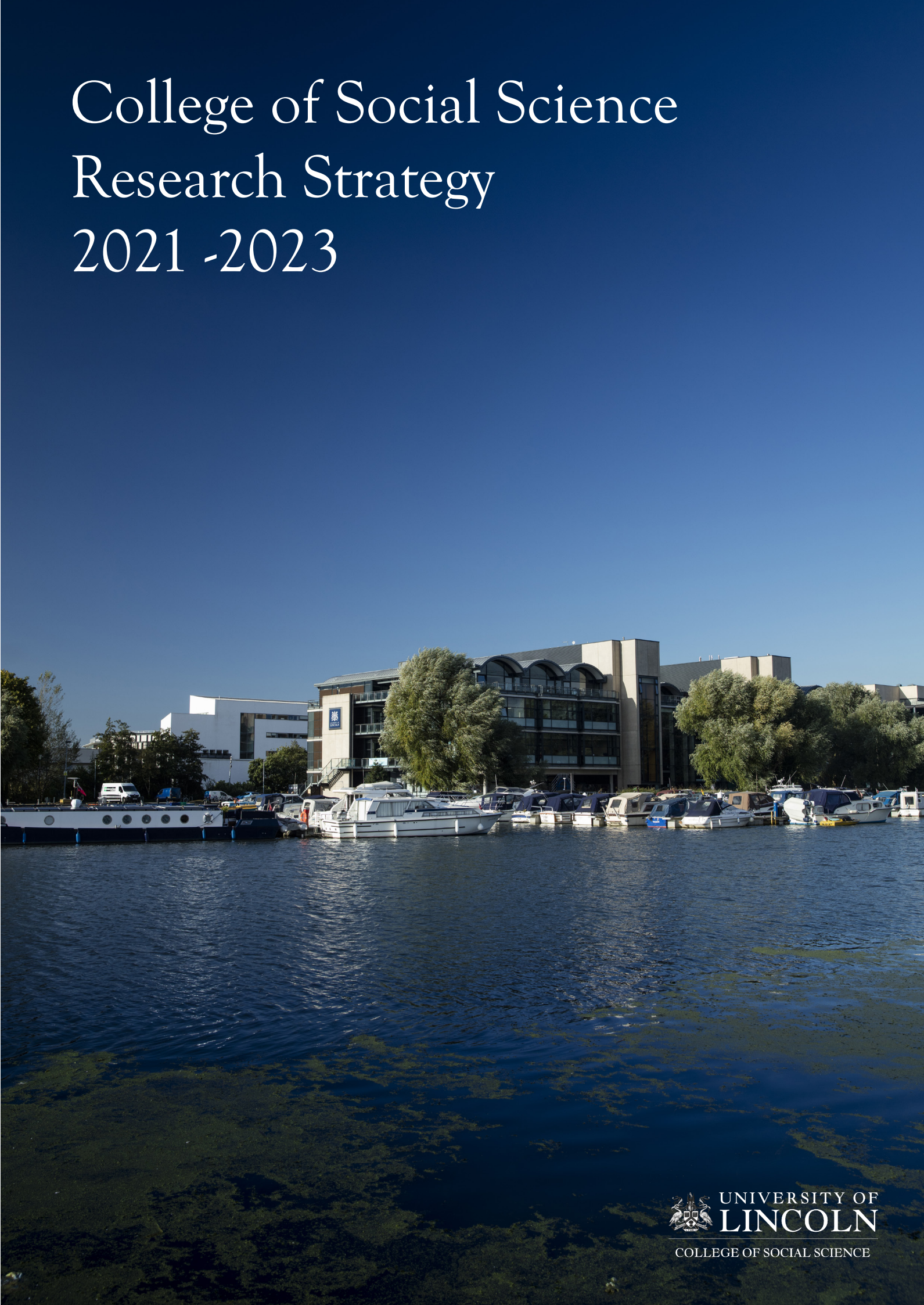
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College of Social Science Research Strategy 2021 -2023



College Research Strategy: 2021 -2023

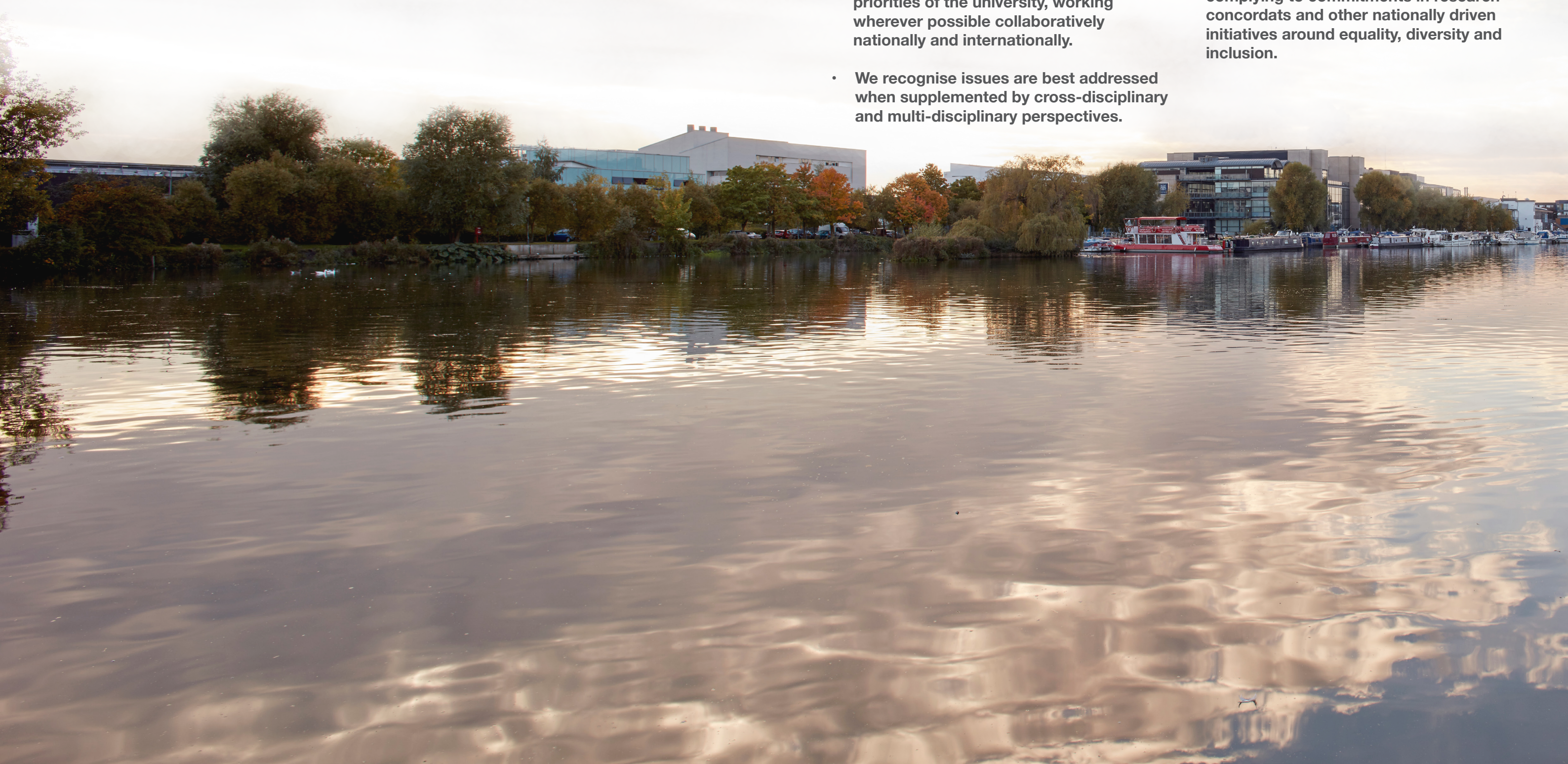
The College of Social Science offers a unique perspective on how to understand and address many of the national and global challenges we face.

We are committed to research that makes a difference and positively impacts the world we live in. On issues of health and well-being through identity and political representation to sustainable communities, our research is critical to address modern challenges and to find meaningful ways to respond to them.

As such, social science research should be embedded in all the answering of all the societal challenges we face, ranging from an ageing population through to climate action.

Our Aims

- **The College of Social Science aims to increase the breadth, depth, and intensity of its research to world leading levels.**
- **Our aim is to capitalise on our unique Social Science perspective to undertake high quality research examining national and global challenges.**
- **Research in the College of Social Science fits within the wider research priorities of the university, working wherever possible collaboratively nationally and internationally.**
- **We recognise issues are best addressed when supplemented by cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives.**
- **Our research is a core component of our civic agenda with a “low walls” approach to other engagement, including consultancy, knowledge transfer, and training and CPD opportunities.**
- **Actively work in an interdisciplinary and co-creative way with partnership organisations and other institutions.**
- **We implement and maintain the standard of our research through adhering and complying to commitments in research concordats and other nationally driven initiatives around equality, diversity and inclusion.**



Action Oriented

The College research strategy sets out a set of values and goals to underpin research within the college.

The plan is action-oriented it is important to ensure that it is implemented in such a way that it effectively develops an effective vibrant research culture, and that it can be flexible as circumstances and societal problems change.

A Strengths Based Research Culture

We believe a positive, strength-based approach is best placed to develop a vibrant and productive research culture.

We aim to support and develop individual academics, research teams and the research topics that they focus on.

The evidence suggests that a strengths-based approach develops sustained individual and team energy and that organisational objectives are most fully realised by celebrating and making opportunity for members to use their strengths effectively.



A parallel implementation plan sets out a five-year action plan with clearly identified goals and indicators by which to measure success.

We will therefore monitor annually and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the strategy and its impact against identified key indicators including income targets and the quality of research outputs and impact.

- **Our focus is on using strengths-based models to build and support the development of an effective research culture and increase research capacity.**
- **We aim to develop interpersonal and adaptive skills and abilities to encourage effective mentoring, interdisciplinarity, and cross - university/organisational working.**
- **We will support knowledge and skills development arounds obtaining funding, effectively managing projects and delivering high quality outputs.**
- **Our systems are continuously reviewed and developed to encourage efficient and effective research implementation and management**
- **A co-creation model is central to undertaking research and through this we aim to develop increased partnership working, encourage cross disciplinary collaborations across a wide range of partnerships and organisational activities.**

Increase Interdisciplinary and External Collaborations

The world is becoming increasingly diverse and interdisciplinary working and the development of external collaborations is increasingly important. Global problems cannot be solved only by local solutions.

In the College of Social Science, we actively encourage interdisciplinary working and external collaborations. We will develop our research Networks, Groups, Centres and Institutes embedded within the University research themes to tackle global challenges.

We will do this by:

- **Valuing and encouraging partnerships, from local organisations through to national and international relationships.**
- **Develop Lincolnshire based initiatives such as Children in Lincoln, ParliLinc, and the Police and Criminal Justice groups to develop local interdisciplinary research partnerships.**
- **Utilising local relationships to establish and build research partnerships developing research of national and global scale.**
- **Utilize effective systems to make working in an interdisciplinary model and with partnership agencies easier and more effective. Our research Institutes and Centres are pivotal in developing interdisciplinary, thematic work with global reach and impact In the same way**

- the Global Professors lead in their specific area, all of the professoriate will be expected to effectively implement theme-based research to expand their areas, as well as supporting the development of all staff from ECR to senior academics.**
- **Identifying and targeting specific research challenges with clear links to funding opportunities.**
- **Advocating for and supporting cross-School and inter-disciplinary activity.**
- **Ensuring inter-disciplinary activity is undertaken and valued.**
- **Developing a clear and strategic approach to developing external partnerships.**



Recognition of Diversity

We recognise the diversity within our staff, the research that they undertake and the partners that the work with. This is consistent with the values held within the College of Social Science and mirrors the Sustainable Development Goals of reducing inequalities, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.

As such we recognise diversity in our staff, the research we undertake and the people we work with by:

- **An inclusive research environment, where academics are supported in their research activity regardless of the focus of their role, the topic, size and scale of the activity or the formal nature of the project.**
- **Recognising the individual strengths and unique differences of our schools.**
- **Encouraging diverse collaborations within the College and across the university through to a range of external organisations and partnerships.**
- **Building diversity through existing Group/ Centre/Institute and Institutional Themes and structures.**
- **Ensure transparency and consistency in implementation of existing policies, approaches and initiatives**



Postgraduate Research

A vibrant post-graduate research community is vital to the functioning of any academic environment and yet often overlook in terms of the steps needed to achieve this.

In these challenging times, new ways are needed to improve, develop, and support the post-graduate research. We therefore will:

- **Focus on increasing the support and encouragement provided to international and self-funding PGR students.**
- **Integrate PGR students into the core college research systems including development activities, seminars, events, and funding.**
- **Increase our capacity to provide excellent and flexible academic supervision and support of post-graduate research.**
- **Develops research leadership abilities at all levels of the organisation from PGR to professorial level.**



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