LONDON
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

Research Policy

1. Introduction

Research and knowledge exchange are central to the culture of intellectual enquiry at London Metropolitan University. Our research is relevant and useful, and allows us to have significant societal, economic and cultural impacts.

Research also underpins our curricula, providing skills for employability and opportunities for progression from undergraduate through to postgraduate study.

Research and collaboration strengthen the University's consultancy work and our engagements with our partners in business, industry, public bodies and local communities. Our research is often multi-disciplinary and applied.

The University aims to

- engage in research, knowledge exchange or enterprise activity, in particular to enhance the University's educational focus and its commitment to social justice

- celebrate variety within different Schools, and in different partner institutions, while ensuring common high standards of pedagogy, assessment, award and publication

- uphold internationally recognised benchmarks of quality in research, knowledge exchange and enterprise activity

- ensure research elements of our curricula meet the changing student expectations and research needs or opportunities

- enrich student learning and develop skilled and employable graduates and staff

- provide enhanced, quality support to postgraduate students

- demonstrate the impact of investment in research and scholarship

- strengthen its reputation as a centre of knowledge, learning and innovation

2. Research Activities

Our research activities are innovative, original and evidence-based. They include:

- acquiring new knowledge or developing new interpretations

- undertaking applied research, directly aimed at practical and applicable objectives

- substantive consultancy, which uses research expertise to achieve a specific contracted goal

- creative work, particularly in the arts and allied subjects

- investigating and developing pedagogy and curricula

- conducting research into the attainment gap to understand and address it

3. Importance of Research

London Metropolitan University recognises the importance of research for:

- contributing to the realisation of its Strategic Plan.

- enabling it to attract and retain high quality academic staff.

- meeting the ambitions of existing staff and postgraduate students.

- enhancing its reputation.

- promoting and supporting excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

- enhancing the originality of courses.

- developing the research skills base and employability of staff and students.

- maintaining level of external income to the University.

- developing relationships and research goals with local, regional, national and international partners.

- enhancing quality of life and wealth-creating potential.

- adding to knowledge and promoting enquiry.

4. Guidelines

- All academic areas are encouraged to support research.

- The University recognises the particular challenges facing Early Career Researchers and wishes Schools to prioritise them where necessary.

- Nevertheless, the University retains the ultimate responsibility for its research profile and, through the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange strategic planning will support Schools to drive these activities.

- External and internal impacts of the University's research and the national peer-review processes are major measures of the University's research effectiveness.

- Excellence in research, teaching, consultancy, professional practice, course development and management merit parity of esteem. It is recognised that individual staff will be suited to different parts of this range of activities.

- Quality research outputs appearing in the public domain or in the case of sensitive material as confidential outputs are the normal result of research and will be recorded through the research infrastructure.

- The University's research infrastructure will provide support for researchers on such matters as advising on research bids, publicising the University's research successes, advising on research costing and expenditure, administering the enrolment and progress of research students, publicising and coordinating internal and external policy matters related to research, and performing a central research coordination role in general.

- The University Research and Postgraduate Office and Graduate School offer staff development opportunities for researchers and aspirant researchers, for postgraduate research students, and for research student supervisors.

The University will monitor the implementation of this policy through the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee reporting to the Academic Board, and through the Schools.