



**University of
Nottingham**

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

International Research and Knowledge Exchange (IRKE) Strategy

Across its three campuses (UK, China, Malaysia), the University of Nottingham (UoN) aims to work collaboratively to solve complex challenges that will transform lives and achieve a sustainable future.

Working with international partners is central to delivering this aspiration and to Nottingham's identity as a global university. The delivery of high quality international research and knowledge exchange will benefit individuals, the institution and our wider communities. Although there is alignment in relation to RKE across the three campuses, there are differences in local conditions that need to be recognised. Whilst setting out principles that are applicable to the whole university, this strategy document includes some UK specific measures of activity.

This International Research and knowledge Exchange strategy is predicated on three fundamental principles:

- 1) Excellence in international Research and KE, building our global reputation
- 2) Collaborating to deliver meaningful contributions to global sustainability linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 3) Working with our international campuses to improve joint research performance and knowledge exchange, particularly through collaborating with other institutions

There are four targets the strategy will need to deliver on:

- 1) Increase of the value of the International Research grants portfolio (KPI UoN UK)
- 2) Increase in field weighted citation index (FWCI) (KPI UoN UK)
- 3) Sustainable development: reflected by performance in the THE Impact Rankings and REF impact case studies (UoN UK)
- 4) Increased quality and reach of cross-campus RKE

To deliver on this strategy RKE and GE must work effectively together, integrating common areas of their respective SDPs. We must also ensure that we adhere to our trusted research obligations.

There will be three underpinning delivery actions:

Delivering Excellence in Research

UoN has a talented and hard-working research community who are both versed and engaged in international collaborations. Our academics are generally aware of where there is excellence in their field of research internationally. The core remit of Faculty and central R&I is to support this community, helping to identify research funding sources and support the collaborative bids to deliver this research and KE. Given there is limited resource to support our international activities, focus is a key consideration and must be closely allied to our overall aims as a University, including supporting areas identified as signature strengths. To this end, R&I's central IRKE team will:

- 1) Identify, support and centrally manage large and strategic international funding applications as per UKRI's ISPF programmes, Horizon 2020, Joint programmes for NSF, FAPESP and jointly for international foundations & trusts including BMGF and Wellcome.
- 2) Provide support for identifying and delivering international collaborations for UoN's Key Research and KE strengths (e.g. Imaging and the Zero Carbon Cluster). R&I will regularly review this with Senior leads and seek to work with identified research growth areas.
- 3) Deliver researcher led International Research sessions tailored to each faculty, each semester to develop knowledge of funding opportunities, but also understanding with respect to the multiplicity of mechanisms for international research collaboration.
- 4) Support engagement across the university's campuses to deliver excellence in selected areas of activity

School and Faculty teams will help to support early stage international collaborations.

Collaborating to deliver meaningful contributions to global sustainability linked to the Sustainable Development Goals

Delivering global sustainable development is more than a goal for the institution, it is aligned to our core values. We shall use the SDGs as a framework for this. The mechanisms for developing and building on our sustainability and SDG portfolio will be:

- 1) Working with our existing expertise and working groups (including Sustainable Research Working Group, SRWG), building a coherent and focused body of activity around key identified SDGs.
- 2) SDG related activities have a particular capacity to move 'hearts and minds'. R&I in conjunction with Faculty Global Engagement Directors, APVCs, External Relations, CARO, Advocacy and GESSU will work to promote and publicise, to UoN, Nottingham and globally the impact of this work and incorporate at least one locally relevant SDG case study in the Faculty International Sessions.
- 3) Work across the institution, particularly with SRWG, Faculty GEDs and APVCs to identify key SDGs where we will work to maximise impact and/or policy both nationally and globally

We recognise that metrics of success will generally be different for activity in this area given the scale of funding opportunities available and nature of outputs, but activity must complement (not detract from) delivery of research and KE excellence.

Working with our international campuses to improve research joint performance and knowledge exchange

UoN's three campuses uniquely position us to exchange knowledge, infrastructure and resources, in particular in relation to the energy transition and the Sustainable Development goals where climate change, income disparity and health inequalities are experienced in very different ways. UNM is well positioned to lead on activity in ASEAN and UNNC on activity in China and Hong Kong, as well as providing gateways to other international collaborations.

- 1) The potential for collaboration with China and Malaysia will focus on areas of common interests aligning to work on the SDGs and improvement in research quality, including international grants requiring a UK lead and meaningful KE
- 2) Monthly meetings to improve cross campus research collaboration will be established, with the chair rotating between campuses
- 3) We aim to capture joint activity across all aspects of intercampus RKE working and seek to deploy the most appropriate measures to track year on year progress.

**A key enabler of this strategy is the ability to query and track our progress through real time data. This is now in place for publications and our ability to calculate FWCI, but is not yet the case with research application data. This is critical to resolve.*

** Second Key enabler is continuing to develop relationships with international funders including UKRI International Team, National Contact Points (NCPs) for EU, Foundations/Trusts that fund internationally (such as Wellcome and Gates Foundation), NIH and NSF*