



The University of Oxford Innovation Strategy

Our Commitment

The University of Oxford is committed to global leadership in knowledge exchange, innovation and entrepreneurship, ensuring our research, scholarship and teaching contribute to the good of the nation and the world.

A vibrant innovation culture will in turn sustain research and teaching excellence by helping to attract and support exceptionally talented students and staff whose insight and creativity is the engine of knowledge creation and exploitation.

Our ability to generate and successfully exploit new ideas arises from our world-leading research and research training and scholarship, our internationally competitive education and the expertise of our staff and students across the entire disciplinary spectrum of the Collegiate University, in sciences, medical sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities. It will come also through active engagement with businesses and with the professional and human services sectors, health care providers, charities and community organisations, charities and community organisations, creative, cultural and heritage organisations and policy-makers. The effect will be to identify interesting problems, stimulate high quality research and deliver social and economic impact locally, nationally and globally, through discovery, commercialisation, policy, process and technological innovation and creating new companies and new social enterprise ventures.

We recognise the importance of technological innovation and are committed to enhancing our contribution to it.

Innovative students and researchers will exchange knowledge across disciplinary and institutional boundaries, and will adapt and incorporate ideas from other sectors, cultures, and times.

The University will be a major contributor to Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley Corridor and especially to an innovation-led economy and improved quality of life, encouraging the development of business and social enterprise and stimulating inward investment.

Objectives

1. To be a world-leader in research-led innovation and enterprise creation through collaboration with external organisations

- Promote novel ways of identifying and addressing research problems through a permeable and proactive engagement with users of University research.
- Facilitate dialogue and interchange between people from different organisations through e.g. discussion, debate, secondments, job shadowing and internships.
- Develop strategic partnerships with public and commercial national and global institutions.
- Enhance the vitality and reputation of Oxfordshire, the Thames Valley Corridor and the UK's Golden Triangle as centres of excellence in research, Big Science, entrepreneurship, business growth and enterprise development.

2. To optimise the economic, social, policy, cultural and health benefits of our research and research training with the support of research funders, business, community and service organisations, investors, alumni and friends

- Accelerate the flow of research ideas and outputs into those organisations best placed to exploit them.
- Secure resources at globally competitive levels to facilitate world-class research, research training, innovation and impact.
- Attract significant funds for proof of concept work, business incubation and strategic investment in University spin-outs and student start-ups in order to create greater public value and impact.
- Strengthen public engagement with our research and with our innovation agenda.

3. To provide a world-class environment for innovation, entrepreneurial activity and related research impact

- Foster cross-disciplinary activities and knowledge exchange given that innovation so often occurs at the intersections of disciplines, cultures, organisations and sectors of the economy.
- Ensure that curricular and extra-curricular provision for skills training and experiential learning in innovation and entrepreneurship is at international benchmark levels.
- Encourage staff, students, alumni and community members with relevant experience and interests to act as mentors or advisers to new entrepreneurs.
- Deliver high quality professional services to support innovation and enterprise.
- Recognise and celebrate research-led innovation and impact at all levels.

Implementation

The University will:

1. Provide strong leadership by the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Heads of Division and other Senior Officers, actively promoting a clear and prominent innovation agenda that is heard and understood by staff, students and external stakeholders (especially our regional partners).
2. Implement the 55 review and improvement actions set out in response to the report from the University of Oxford Innovation Working Group¹, focussed in four areas: (1) Academic recognition and peer support; (2) Education and training in entrepreneurship and enterprise; (3) Professional services in technology transfer; and (4) Internal and external communications and marketing.
3. Monitor through accountability and reports to Research Committee in Trinity Term 2016 and 2017 the completion of those actions.
4. Establish a set of key innovation and knowledge exchange success measures (to be approved by Research Committee by February 2016).
5. Keep the Innovation Strategy under review (Under the leadership of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), in consultation with the Research Committee).

¹ The Oxford University Innovation Working Group (OIWG) was set up in 2013 to examine the University's aspirations, activities and future strategy in relation to innovation and knowledge exchange. The Group's report, presented by the chair, the PVC (Research), was endorsed by Research Committee, PRAC and Council. Council approved establishing a working group to determine the actions necessary to implement the Report's 10 major recommendations and 19 subsidiary recommendations.