
curriculum development, and the writing of most kinds of textbooks. In this policy statement the term research is used in the sense of (1) above.

The University recognises, as the basis for its policy on research, the following definitions:

Basic Research : experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge without any specific application initially in mind;

Strategic Research : work intended to generate new knowledge in an area which has not yet advanced sufficiently to enable specific applications to be identified but for which applications are likely;

Applied Research: work which seeks to develop existing knowledge and is directed towards specific practical objectives and research users or towards the evaluation of policies or practices;

Creative Work: the invention and generation of ideas, hypotheses, images, performances or artefacts, including design in any field of knowledge which leads to the development of new knowledge, understanding or expertise;

Experimental Research: Systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge that is directed to producing new materials, products or devices, to installing new processes, systems and services, or to improving substantially those already produced or installed.

Scholarship : work intended to expand the boundaries of knowledge and understanding within and across disciplines by the analysis, synthesis and interpretation of ideas and information, making use of a rigorous and documented methodology and which results in outputs of various kinds.

The University, therefore, values and supports research as a vital element of its mission. Accordingly it will:

- encourage all kinds of research as defined above;
- continue to define research in accordance with national benchmarks (The University Definition of Research is attached to this Policy Statement)
- encourage and actively support staff to seek funding from a range of sources, including government, commercial and industrial sources.
- target its own research funding strategically and selectively, in accordance with the University's mission, Research Plan, and School Research Plans through inter alia: the support of University-designated Research Centres, research groups – in particular, multidisciplinary research groups; collaborative research with research groups in other institutions (in accordance with the University's policy in this respect); and individual research projects of proven or potential quality;
- invest in suitable infrastructure (e.g. estates, IT, learning resources, etc.) in order to maintain an environment that is conducive to and supportive of high quality research
- use sabbatical leave as an important element of research development, in accordance with the sabbatical leave Policy Statement;
- expect research and scholarship undertaken by its staff to enhance the University's reputation and to contribute to taught programmes and agreed staff development priorities;

