

School of Applied Sciences Plan 2022/23

Objective
<p>As part of Project VISION (<i>Shaping Our Future Infrastructure & Estates</i>) to develop our estate and infrastructure, we will consider and develop a plan for new sports and sport sciences facility conjoined with needs of Health and Social Care and Edinburgh Napier Students Association. Building on the successful acquisition of the funding National Services Scotland hospital look for opportunities in engineering, applied sciences and health and social care. We will also seek to further consolidate and align and increase research opportunities and evidence of impact between the School of Health and Social Care in the area of clinical exercise.</p>
<p>We will focus on growing and reviewing our taught postgraduate student population that meets the needs of both home and overseas students. Building on the success of the teacher education programmes we will launch the PGDE English course and MSc Social Sciences Research. New programme developments will include a proposal/business case for launching a MSc in Education (enhanced professional practice). We will explore opportunities within the Global online framework for the distance learning Wildlife management programme.</p>
<p>We will improve overall student satisfaction in NSS, PTES and PRES in 2022/23 with a focus on student engagement developing community engagement and scholarship work within the School. We will actively work with and recruit programme representatives who we can then work in partnership to inform teaching and learning across the School. Assessment and Feedback is a priority area of focus at undergraduate level and we will use qualitative rubric to provide feedback on criteria and ensure consistency of assessment and feedback through better communication with academic staff across the School. Working with the PGR community and professional services departments we will look to further integrate PGR students into the day-to-day activities of the School to help foster a stronger academic connection and environment.</p>
<p>Engagement with international taught postgraduate students is a priority and we will focus on working with students to ensure excellence in their student experience with in collaboration with professional services departments. We will for example develop and deliver LEGO play sessions to better engage with the international student community. We will review the Pharmaceutical & Analytical Science MSc by January 2023 to ensure that the retention rates of students are improved and the impact on academic staff is reduced and enable growth for this programme in future years.</p>
<p>Improve Graduate Employability across all programmes through focussed programme level interventions and delivery of a School employability action plan in collaboration with Student Futures. We will increase placement opportunities for students across the School. Within Life Sciences we will focus on the implementation of skills training for Biological Sciences, Animal Conservation Biology and Marine and Freshwater Biology routes and also embed a professional practice module and employer liaison panel that will ensure alignment to the skills requirements of industry and accrediting bodies. For Psychology and Social Sciences we will develop an undergraduate skills 'passport' and dedicated resources for students for personal and professional development. For Sports, Exercise and Health Sciences we are focussed on increasing placement opportunities and we will undertake review of curriculum to strengthen employability pathways, including focus on data and digital skills.</p>

We will grow our research income, staff involved in research and grow income from Knowledge Exchange activities. Implement a new research structure in the school as we embed the new research centres and establish the Mountain Bike Innovation Centre (MTBIC) that will develop a Knowledge Exchange and funding pipeline involving academics from across the school. We will focus on partnership management and development and prepare new strategic tenders (for SIPR, MASTS) and proposals (MTBIC), building on success with NHS and seek external funding opportunities to support creation of a policing research centre. We will ensure that all three research centres are embedded within the subject areas and that we work with RIE to provide research and knowledge exchange opportunities. We plan to use a re-engagement fund to continue building staff confidence and ability to secure new research and knowledge exchange contracts, develop new external relations and increase publication outputs. Building on the REF2021 submission identification of impact cases studies for the next REF exercise will take place.

School will look to implement the new Early Career Academic programme by providing staff mentorship and career development plans, based around a needs analysis. All new staff, including those deemed to be ECA, will be aligned to one of the School's new research centres or cross university centres. To ensure we do not adversely impact mid-career academics development or those supported on the School's research re-engagement plan the School will look to mobilise its temporary resource to manage workload requirements. The Schools Professoriate will be re-presented to the School in the form of experience and expertise so that ECAs can approach the correct support relevant to the requirement of their development plan.

Develop a coherent and collegiate team environment where staff are clear of expectations on them and are clear of development opportunities and how to access them whilst having the necessary resource to enhance their profile and that of the school. Following a period of staff engagement discussions, new line management/subject group structures will be implemented, where appropriate, for 2022/23 providing more consistent line management and workload allocation across the school. Consider how to foster a new sense of community within the school within the 'new world of work', and make recommendations for campus space to support this. Key to these improvements will be improved visibility of communication channels that should be used to successfully complete roles and elicit improvements. Continue to develop sustainability agenda in the School through the Green lab group, and school governance structures to ensure activities and new ideas can be identified and activated.