

Edinburgh Napier University Research & Innovation Impact Strategy

Context:

Edinburgh Napier's [Shaping our Future R&I strategy](#) aims to foster a research environment that inspires and brings together our internal and external stakeholders, **to solve real world problems** as well as **influence professional practice and policy** nationally and internationally, **driving key societal, economic and environmental impacts**.

This impact strategy outlines the **University's plans to enhance generation of impact from research and innovation in the period 2021 to 2028**.

We will:

Build a culture of impact awareness amongst staff and students:

- Introduce the concept of research impact at all stages of career (incl. research students)
- Reward and recognise impact in the career progression framework and within the Workload Allocation Model
- Communicate the benefits and relevance of impact generation in all disciplines
- Record objectives relating to impact generation within *MyContribution*
- Grow a community who can share good practice through impact get-togethers and awareness-raising workshops, accessible to all staff and research students
- Champion impact in its widest sense, extending beyond that of the restrictive REF criteria to reflect Edinburgh Napier's motto as "*the home of difference makers*" across the full breadth of university activities.

Communicate impact in a clear, inclusive, and relatable manner and showcase outcomes:

- Agree clear and inclusive language and channels of communication in alignment with the [University's Knowledge Exchange Concordat Action Plan](#)
- Share impact examples in relatable, layperson language via forums such as impact newsletters, REF updates, sandpit events, innovation hub case studies and Q and As
- Share examples of direct and indirect impact, promoting a diverse range of impacts and indicators
- Develop a visible, impact web-presence on the Edinburgh Napier website and via social media, celebrating impacts generated at all stages of career, including our RPG community
- Develop a wide range of Innovation Hub content which captures the diversity of research impacts and beneficiaries
- Continue to celebrate examples of impact in Senior Leadership communications e.g. Principal's View
- Raise visibility and celebrate our impactful activities in the public domain through media, sector awards and public dissemination.

Introduce a programme of impact training and development, accessible to all:

- Develop user-friendly [training resources](#) on the [staff intranet](#) (also accessible to research students)
- Deliver generic training workshops via external providers
- Deliver bespoke, discipline-specific training workshops via external providers
- Integrate impact training alongside knowledge exchange and public engagement training
- Introduce mentorship for ECAs, partnering them with experienced, impact-generating staff

Provide professional expertise in 'Routes to Impact : Making It Happen':

- Encourage engagement with RIE professionals and sector specialists in:
 - *Dissemination of research*
 - *Public Engagement*
 - *Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation*
 - *Engaging with policy makers and end users at all levels and across sectors*
 - *Media Coverage*
 - *CPD and Consultancy underpinned by research*
 - *Industry collaboration*
 - *The Innovation Hub*
 - *External infrastructures incl. Scottish Enterprise, Interface, Innovation Centres*

Routinely record impact:

- Roll-out the new Worktribe impact module and develop simple guidance
- Provide hands-on support to build and evidence impact stories within Worktribe
- Introduce subject-level impact planning templates, including evaluation milestones and risks

Invest in impact:

- Ring-fence SFC funds for impact-generating initiatives and training

Raise awareness of Government priorities for tackling real-world problems:

- Encourage our staff and students to think about their research in the context of the following landscape (*where appropriate to do so*) e.g.:
 - Scottish National Performance Outcomes*
 - Scottish Strategy for Economic Transformation*
 - UK Plan for Growth (formerly Grand Challenges)*
 - Sustainable Development Goals*

Utilise our newly established research centres and challenge-led interdisciplinary themes to foster interdisciplinary impact:

- Ring-fence funding to launch and support activities of the interdisciplinary themes and centres
- Deliver sand-pit events to demonstrate interdisciplinary impact opportunities across Health, Environment, AI and Technologies and Culture and Communities

Introduce transparent processes for future REF impact case study selection:

- Introduce fair and inclusive processes for REF impact case study development
- Introduce transparent processes for final selection of REF-submitted case studies based on REF criteria and independent assessment.

Measures of success:

- Increased awareness of impact, evidenced through staff surveys
- Increased volume of REF impact case studies to select from in future REF
- Completion of impact planning templates at School level
- Increased interactions with the University's KE and PE professionals
- Increased number of high-impact spin outs and licensing opportunities
- Increased usage of the Worktribe impact module