

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE ARTS

Research Strategy 2020-2021

The School fosters a research culture based on the following values: respect for freedom of enquiry; the value of individual research and disciplinary diversity; the value of interdisciplinary collaboration; and the need to maintain a supportive research community within the School.

The School has a diverse research profile that includes:

- Histories of creative practice (including literature, film, theatre, music, digital arts and media)
- Textual and critical analysis (of writing, films, performances, musical works, digital works, etc.)
- The application of theoretical and philosophical approaches to creativity and culture
- Practice-based research
- The application and analysis of digital technologies in arts and humanities

The School research strategy has six strands:

1. COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

The maintenance of a supportive research community in the School is essential to the vitality of research at individual and collective levels.

	Action	Responsibility
1	Regular circulation of up-to-date information on School members' research interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School web administrator
2	Share information and experience relating to funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Committee• School Board
3	Establishment of regular research seminar for staff, PhDs and postdocs to showcase research activity, provide advice and guidance, bring in visiting speakers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Committee
4	Establish mentoring system, especially for early career researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of School
5	Ensure publicity for and celebration of School research achievements, including provision for book launches, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of School• Publicity & Media Officer
6	Provide collegial support to enable sabbatical cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heads of School• Heads of Discipline• All School members
7	Create School research fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of School• Research Committee
8	Review and oversee School research strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Committee

2. RESEARCH THEMES

In order to facilitate collaboration and highlight collective strengths in the School, a number of cross-disciplinary themes or clusters should be identified. Each staff member and PhD student should be affiliated to at least one theme, although School themes are not intended to define or constrain the variety of research and publication produced by individuals. Themes should be reviewed periodically.

Current research themes are:

- Cross Cultural Encounters
- Digital Humanities
- Gender Discourse & Identity
- Space, Place and Identity
- Sport and Exercise
- Textual Cultures
- Values and Identities
- Performance and Cultural Production
- Histories of Creative Practice

3. RESEARCH NORMS

Research norms for the School of English and Creative Arts are considered under the following headings:

1. Publications
2. Practice as Research
3. Research Profile
4. Research Funding
5. Postgraduate Research Supervision
6. Networking and Collaboration
7. Workload

1. PUBLICATIONS

Publication forms and research outputs are of necessity highly diverse in the subject areas of this School. Staff should show evidence of 3 significant research outputs over a 5 year period with appropriate adjustments where a greater or lesser period is to be examined. Staff are encouraged to place work where relevant in leading internationally benchmarked publications. School mentors may advise early career staff on where best to publish research. Article in other journal
Book Chapter
Book (authored/co-authored)
Book (edited/co-edited)
Journal (editor/guest editor/associate editor/other)
Review in a peer-reviewed journal/outlet

Publication of Conference Proceedings (editorship)
Conference Paper published in a Proceedings
Scholarly editions
Anthologies
Report
Research data sets and databases

2. PRACTICE AS RESEARCH

It is acknowledged that “practice as research” is recognised as a significant research output and such outputs include (but are not limited to) the following:

Artefact
Composition
Digital or visual media
Design devices and products
Exhibition
Patent/published patent application
Performance
Software
Website content
Design processes
Multi-platform projects
Creative writing
Portfolio of creative work
Development of Archives

3. RESEARCH PROFILE

Staff should maintain and update regularly their online research profile on IRIS website and upload (where possible) publications to ARAN. Staff should promote research online and in other media when and where possible.

4. RESEARCH FUNDING

It is acknowledged that in the research fields of arts and humanities that funding opportunities are limited in comparison to those in STEM disciplines. Staff should show evidence over a 5-year period of applying for funding awards and/or supporting applications as supervisors/mentors:

External research funding
Internal research funding
Supporting PhD studentship applications
Supporting Postdoctoral applications

5. POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Supervision of PhD students and other early career scholars is an integral part of academic work. All staff shall participate in research supervision for postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Recognising that some areas of specialism attract more PhD students than others, supervision shall be understood to encompass work as primary supervisors, as co-supervisors, or as GRC members. Heads of Discipline should monitor participation on GRCs to ensure that workload is shared as equally as possible amongst staff.

6. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

- Staff should show evidence of presenting at and/or organizing relevant academic conferences.
- Presentations may take the form of panel papers, posters, and participation in workshops and/or working groups.
- Staff should join relevant research networks, working groups, federations and associations.

7. WORKLOAD

If the notional academic workload norm involves a division of 40% research, 40% teaching and 20% administration, then the research time allocation would be amount to a norm of c. 680 hours per year (= 85 working days). This expectation must be recognised and protected, and factored into workload planning

4. RESEARCH METRICS

The School recognises the need to engage with the presence and use of research metrics, while also recognising that existing metrics (SCOPUS, SciVal, Google Scholar, etc.) are all inadequate for capturing the full scope of research output in arts and humanities. The School will continue to engage with the College Research Committee on University use of metrics and seek advice from experts using metrics.

5. IMPACT

Identification and quantification of the impact of research will be a feature of IRRP and Quality Reviews, and is increasingly a requirement for funding.

Action

Decide on a definition of “impact” appropriate to our research but also meaningful for external evaluation criteria

Responsibility

- Research Committee

Seek advice from experts on impact assessment elsewhere (e.g. UK REF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee
Identify a potential “impact case study” within each discipline in preparation for next IRRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee • Heads of Discipline
Provide workshop and training opportunities in identifying impact for arts and humanities (in conjunction with Moore Institute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee • Moore Institute
Publicise School research impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity & Media Officer

6. PhDs and POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

PhDs and postdoctoral researchers are crucial contributors to the School’s research culture, and should be recognised appropriately.

Action	Responsibility
Establish PhD Staff-Student committee, meeting annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of School
PhD class reps become members of Research Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee
Research Committee oversees GRC process across School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee • Heads of Discipline
Publish School-based PhD Handbook with guidelines on PhD admission processes, guidelines for practice-based PhDs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee
PhDs/Postdocs will take part in and help organise SECA Research Seminars that will run throughout the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Committee • PhD students/Postdoc Researchers