

Embedding Research Culture in Practice

Sally Puzey
Director of Research Services
Aston University

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Our 2030 strategy: vision and values

To be a leading university of science, technology and enterprise, measured by the positive transformational impact we achieve for our people, students, businesses and the communities we serve.

Ambition

Collaboration

Inclusion

Innovation

Integrity

Our University Research Institutes

Core interdisciplinary research themes: Health, Digital and Technology



Aston Digital
Futures Institute



EBRI
Energy & Bioproducts
Research Institute



Aston Institute
for Forensic
Linguistics



IHN
Institute of Health
& Neurodevelopment



Institute for
Membrane
Excellence



AIPT
Aston Institute of
Photonic Technologies

R&E Priorities 25-26... With the big picture in mind

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

OUR IMPACT		
Measure	2021-22 Performance	2030 Target
24. Research Excellence Framework (REF) / Times Higher Education GPA Ranking	58th	Top 35 for research quality
25. Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)	Placed in second quintile nationally (e.g. very high or high engagement) in three out of four key areas aligned with the strategy	Top quintile in all 7 categories
26. International reputation – QS World University Ranking	QS 561-570	Top 300
27. International reputation – Times Higher Education Ranking	THE 401-500	Top 300
28. International reputation – Times Higher Education Impact Ranking	-	Top 100
29. National reputation – The Guardian	22	Top 20
30. National reputation – The Times / The Sunday Times	44	Top 30
31. Number of revenue-generating business partnership agreements	380	500 (focus on larger scale contracts)
32. Number of community partnership agreements	5	50
33. Number of revenue-generating international partnership agreements (JVs)	5	25
34. Number of commercial / corporate Joint Ventures	1	15
35. Number of active Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	30 (£7m total portfolio value)	50 (£15m total portfolio value)
36. Digital inclusion – Digital Skills Academy provision	-	1000 p.a.
37. Health equity – Health Services Hub community access to clinical services on campus (external, staff, students)	1,500 p.a.	22,000 p.a.



Our Role:
Creating the right conditions for research excellence and knowledge exchange to thrive

Priorities for embedding Research Culture

Committed Research and Enterprise Leadership Team; prioritising positive research culture and providing oversight and accountability

My Personal Research Plan implemented institution-wide

Research Leadership Programme for VC's Prize Fellows and aspiring Research Leaders

Diverse approaches to enabling research excellence across the career lifecycle (fellowships to research clusters, centres, Institutes)

Support for local Institute or Centre-level initiatives

PCE Learning points

- Research Culture is a Team Sport
- Views of Research Culture and how (if) it can be measured vary widely
- Gaps in evaluation of impact
- Frameworks such as HR Excellence in Research Award and Athena Swan provide a valuable evaluation tool for charting progress and maintaining momentum

Thank you

**ONE
ASTON**