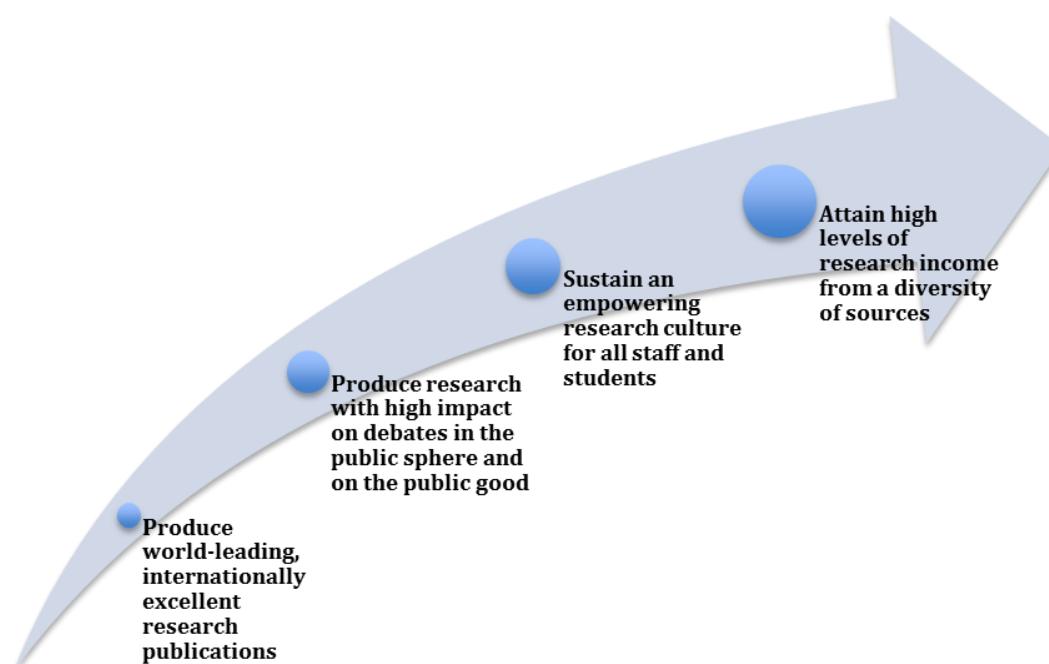


The School of Politics & International Relations has identified four strategic aims for research for the period 2015-20, which are detailed below.



Objective 1: Produce world-leading, internationally excellent research publications

What we want to achieve:

Build on REF2014 success (74% world leading/ internationally excellent) to be in the top 10 of UK HEIs for producing world-leading, internationally excellent research publications.

How we will meet these objectives:

Through: staff research mentoring including strategic advice on research and publication plans; provision of regular feedback on draft work by mentors and/ or other internal and external colleagues; use of PRA and GRF to fund opportunities for presenting draft work at conferences and workshops.

Our criteria for success:

An increase in the number of world-leading and internationally excellent research publications, as identified through internal and external audits (including REF2020); An increase in the number of publications in leading journals and books with leading academic publishers.

Objective 2: Produce research with high impact on debates in the public sphere and on the public good

What we want to achieve:

Increase our expert contribution to debates in the public sphere and maximise the impact of our research on the public good.

How we will meet these objectives:

Through: public engagement, via SPIR events programmes and interdisciplinary Research Centres (MEI and CER) and Theory Lab events; implementation of SPIR Open Access and Impact policies; provision of training for colleagues in skills needed for research dissemination; applying for internal (QMUL) and external funding for impact-related research and dissemination projects; sharing expertise on dissemination and impact and providing feedback on pathways to impact statements in all grant applications; making GRF and other funds available to build and sustain research networks with non-academic practitioners; working constructively with QMUL CPE; publicising colleagues' public engagement activities and impact-related research and, where appropriate, their interests in consultancy work.

Our criteria for success:

Strong set of impact cases for REF 2020; increased media presence; number of well-attended events with audiences beyond the academy; success in grant applications for impact-related work; citations/ hits in non-academic sources, including policy reports, news articles, blogs, twitter; invited participation of colleagues on non-academic panels, committees and advisory bodies.

Objective 3: Sustain an empowering research culture for all staff and students

What we want to achieve:

Consolidate and develop our distinctive and empowering research culture for all staff and students

How we will meet this objective:

Through: rigorous implementation of PGR and staff equality and diversity policies; support for ECRs; funding and logistical support for work of MEI, CER and Theory Lab; linking of PGR to interdisciplinary research centres; managed expansion of the PGR programme; increase of studentship funding for PGR; increase of numbers of post-doctoral fellows and distinguished visiting research fellows; appropriate research mentoring for post-doctoral fellows; regular PGR/ staff research seminar; regular informal research events for PGR and staff to present works-in-progress; GRF funding to support putting on of workshops and

seminars by PGR and staff; PRA and GRF funding to support PGR and staff in building and sustaining broader national and international research networks.

Our criteria for success:

Retaining ECU equality award; improved rating for our research environment in REF2020; numbers of PGR, Post-doctoral and visiting fellows; amount of studentship funding available for PGR; numbers of well-attended SPIR organised internal and open events, including conferences and workshops; attendance of SPIR PGR and staff at national and international conferences and workshops; success of SPIR PGR and staff at gaining external and internal funding for research networks, conferences and workshops.

Objective 4: Attain high levels of research income from a diversity of sources

What we want to achieve:

Maintain levels of research income achieved 2013-15, continue to diversify sources of research funding.

How we will meet this objective:

Advice to staff through mentoring and research planning, including peer-reading of applications; use of GRF funds for pump-priming funding applications; regular research forums for staff targeting particular calls, funding sources and individuals or clusters in SPIR; working closely with the College's Joint Research Management and Business Development offices.

Our criteria for success:

Success in grants applications to Research Councils and other major funders; income from third and private sector.