

Faculty of Education : Research, Knowledge Exchange and Engagement Strategy 2018 – 2025

The Vision

The Faculty of Education provides a research informed and research led environment which challenges conventional thinking and encourages innovative approaches to all that we do. In so doing it enables practitioners and students to be known for their critical thinking and reflection working and learning alongside a community of inspiring and engaged scholars and researchers.

The Mission

The Faculty of Education is known nationally and internationally for the outstanding quality of its research which is recognised and valued for its significant contribution in informing policy and practice on the educational opportunities afforded to children and young people across all educational settings. At Edge Hill University in the Faculty we aim for continual improvement in the quality and criticality of our teaching and learning, for the reputation we have for supporting and nurturing inspiring, thoughtful and challenging leaders, and for realising strategic priorities for developing and sustaining entrepreneurial approaches to shared learning across the boundaries of the academy, practice and policy settings. We are led in our strategic and practical roles in meeting the complex needs of the Region.

Our Values

We are committed to social justice and change. Our learners are independent, critical and reflexive thinkers and practitioners. We strive to encourage a working practice informed by the shared values of enquiry led practice and research informed learning. We value multi-disciplinary approaches to research and knowledge exchange and we promote these ways of working across the Faculty's programmes and activities. We research, publish, disseminate and act on our research findings which contribute to shaping, informing and changing educational policy making for those who have been excluded or marginalised by institutional and structural barriers of discrimination or exclusion. We are committed to supporting the exchange of ideas and practice by working with key and strategic partners from different institutional settings and, in particular, growing our network of international partners.

Our Approach

By the summer of 2020 we will demonstrate that we have established the foundations of meeting the expectations we have set out above. We have aligned what we do with the metrics and assessment criteria that will be used to measure research and knowledge exchange.

1. A key priority will be to ensure that we make a significant contribution to the REF post 2021 and that the decisions we take now are intended to secure the

foundations for that priority. To that end during **2018/19 we will appoint our post 2021 REF Strategic Lead for the Faculty.**

2. By 2021 we will have a lively and engaged Doctoral Community – partly through the GTA Scheme but also through transfer of PhD students to work here with their supervisors and through securing external funding for at least 2 PhD studentships. Through our Knowledge Exchange Fund, we will support a **Faculty based PhD Society**. We would anticipate that by 2021 we will have appointed, at least, **three Post-Doctoral** Researchers.
3. By 2019/20 we will have a **cohort registered on the University's Professional Doctorate Programme.**
4. We are committed to seeing **staff** as active and engaged researchers and involved in knowledge exchange initiatives and contributing to the Faculty's Programme of Research Seminars / Knowledge Exchange workshops as well as contributing to the raising of the quality of all research informed teaching and learning. By the **summer of 2020** we expect that **staff** will be aligned to **specific research and knowledge exchange themes** either based within their department or as cross Faculty groups.
5. We will, by the summer of 2020, expect to see a significant increase in the number of successful applications to all the internal funding streams in the University. We recognise that colleagues will need support for this so that during 2018/19 we will provide support for individuals as well as at department level in order that we can increase both the number and success rate of applications.
6. We, also, will continue to support those making external applications for funding. Increasing our external grant income is good for the Faculty and for our contribution to the University's overall reputation.
7. We are committed to working with external partners in educational settings or as key agencies and organisations involved in education policy making and practice. By 2019 we intend to have secured at least three strategic partnerships aligned with our Values and Mission.
8. We will introduce in **2018 a series of Knowledge Exchange and Engagement events** (workshops, briefings and seminars). We will launch with a focus on 'Meeting the needs of the Region 'in the autumn. KEE is a central part of what we do.
9. We will introduce a **Professional Learning Framework** to ensure that all our Cross Professional Learning at whatever level is contained within a deliberate structure to facilitate learning and accreditation at levels to meet the learner's needs.

10. We will be looking to **secure a formal partnership with a university overseas during 2018/19**. An initial discussion has taken place with the Faculty of Education, Public Affairs and Innovation at University of Central Florida (UCF). UCF already has links to Edge Hill University through I4P. We would hope to **create a network** of partner faculties or institutes so that we are influencing and shaping an **international network** where staff and student exchanges take place or KEE is a core part of the remit of the network.
11. We will be seeking to **secure University approval for two Research Centres by the Spring of 2020**. We will make a formal application for a Research Centre based on Social Justice during this forthcoming academic year. Colleagues linked to this network have already demonstrated through their publications, funding secured and external engagement that they meet the University requirements.
12. By **2022** we anticipate that we will make an application to be the **home for one of the University Research Institutes**.

The Faculty of Education's Programme of Research, Knowledge Exchange and Engagement

We will continue to support, develop and promote events which are open to staff, researchers, post graduate learners and professionals.

During 2018 -19 we will be running the following:

- Research Seminar Series (led by invited external researchers)
- PhD Students Seminar Series (led by staff undertaking doctoral studies and GTAs from the Faculty)
- Doctoral Day School (introduced this summer and will be followed up by a day in January and one in July)
- Annual Conference on Research in Education (ACRE) – in 2018/19 this will be in June/July – open to externals through a peer reviewed process
- Doctoral Lecture Series – relaunched in the autumn of 2018 (at least 2 public lectures per term by staff who have recently completed their doctorate)
- Knowledge Exchange and Engagement Workshops and Briefings – new in 2018/19 on the theme of Meeting the Needs of the Region
- Innovation in Teaching and Learning Series
- Special events led by the Research Centre (once established) or by the Faculty research networks/ clusters supported by the KEE fund.
- Professorial Lectures are organised centrally