

Royal Holloway, University of London

Research Strategy for the Arts Faculty

Five Areas of Strategic Importance for Research in the Arts Faculty

1. Supporting the strategic aims of the College
2. Faculty structure and leadership
3. Support for researchers
4. Diversity in research
5. Dissemination, networking, outreach and engagement

1. The Arts Faculty is committed to supporting and facilitating the achievement of the strategic aims of the College as a whole.

Research strategy in the Arts Faculty is driven by the College's key strategic themes, and the related objectives, as they are set out in the document circulated in December 2009. These can be found on the web pages of the Strategy Unit here:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Strategy-Unit/Strategy%20p1.html>

The Faculty, in particular, hopes to achieve each of the five 'objectives' at Faculty level:

- i. Create the time for high quality research activity, taking action to place all academic departments competitively, ready for the introduction of future approaches to evaluating research excellence
- ii. Promote and encourage inter-departmental communication and cross-disciplinary working.
- iii. Improve and enhance professional and administrative support for research and enterprise activity.
- iv. Create a framework of explicit support for early career researchers.
- v. Create an engaging and vibrant programme of public engagement and outreach activity.

The further objectives and priorities outlined below arise from these aims.

2. Faculty Structure and Leadership

Excellence in research remains the Arts Faculty's priority, and to achieve this it will maintain an administrative structure that ensures good communication between individual researchers, Departments, the Faculty, and the College.

- The Dean and the Faculty Manager are supported by a Deputy Dean with responsibility for research (in addition to the Deputy Dean for teaching);
- Directors of Research and Research Committees are supported by a Faculty Research Group, which provides a forum for discussion and a means of implementing and disseminating research strategy and initiatives;

Key aims to be facilitated through this structure include:

- Monitoring and enhancing rates of application for and success in research funding;
- Ensuring systematic preparation for national assessment exercises (the REF) and the sharing of good practice across departments;
- Responsiveness to the shifting national agenda in research;
- Implementing as appropriate measures to monitor research indicators including 'impact' and 'research environment'

3. Support for Researchers

The Faculty is committed to offering the best possible support to its research staff at all stages of their careers.

This will be achieved through:

- Supporting existing structures at departmental level - such as mentoring - and where appropriate sharing examples of good practice (for example at Faculty Research Group);
- the use of Faculty-specific funding and awards, such as the Faculty Initiative Fund. Such initiatives might serve to: free up time for the completion of research outputs, foster the development of well-defined research projects, and improve rates of application for external research funding;
- enhancing existing support provided by Research and Enterprise to

- include more Arts-specific events;
- implementing training and networking opportunities to allow the needs of researchers at different stages of their career to be addressed;
- the work of the Deputy Dean (research), who will oversee a flexible programme of research events (for example, to promote and inform about funding opportunities), and facilitate lines of communication between departments and opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-faculty dialogue;
- monitoring and maintaining sabbatical leave entitlements for researchers;

4. Diversity in Research

The Faculty is committed to enhancing and supporting all types of research in the Arts. Areas of strength in 'traditional' fields (such as theoretical or archival work) will be maintained, in addition to an improved and continued acknowledgement of:

- the needs of practice-based researchers;
- interdisciplinary and innovative research and research initiatives.

5. Dissemination, Networking, Outreach and Engagement

The Faculty is committed to supporting and enhancing the opportunities for the dissemination of research findings within the College community and in so doing improving networking and dialogue across the Faculty.

This will be achieved, as appropriate, by:

- Continued support for the work of Research Centres and in particular that of HARC, which is a platform for interdisciplinary exchange;
- Exploring and developing web-based means of promoting and disseminating our work;
- Supporting a programme of Faculty research symposia and events.

Improved outreach and broader engagement with a wider public are also key priorities for the Arts Faculty.