



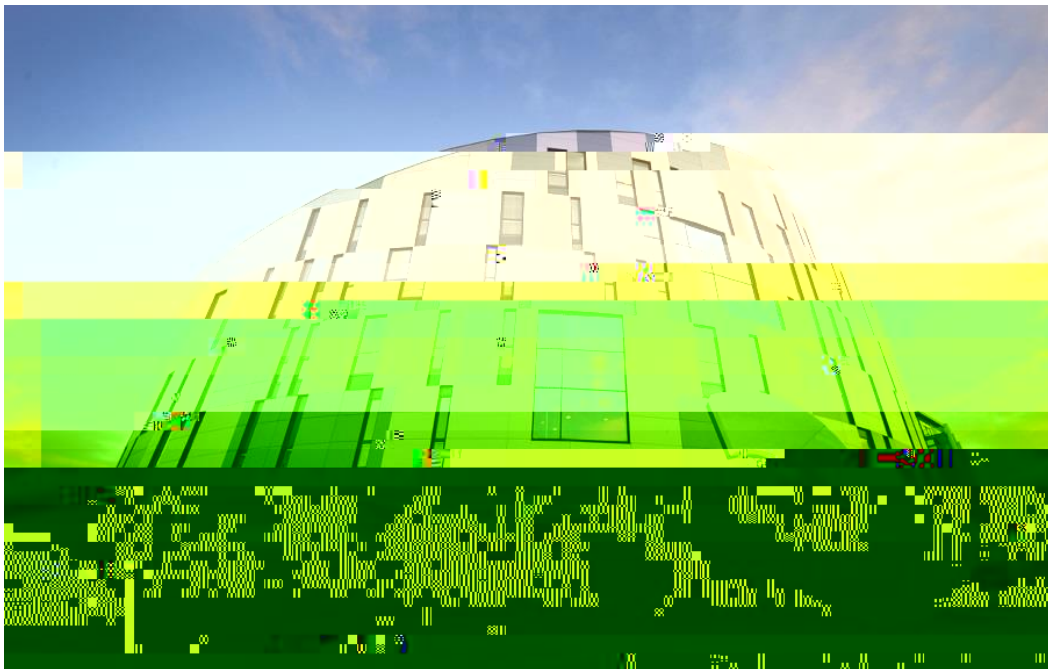
TWO-YEAR SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT SUMMARY

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

The University of Suffolk successfully gained the HR Excellence in Research Award in June 2017.

This document reviews our progress since then and outlines our vision and the practical actions that demonstrate our continued commitment to supporting and developing our research staff.

The accompanying 2017-2019 Action Plan Review and 2019-2021 Action Plan provide more detail on specific achievements and actions for the future.



Background

Since our independence in 2016, the development of a strong HE culture and the support of staff in the development of their research profiles has been an institutional priority. The research strategy is to build our reputation and brand as an innovative, flexible, high-quality provider that has strong roots in its immediate community but with ambitions to achieve national and international research recognition. University of Suffolk has a diverse academic profile, largely vocational in nature. Its academic activities, like many other universities in the sector, can be broadly defined into three categories: providing education, undertaking research and

Key challenges

The period following the award has seen significant changes in senior staff at the University with responsibility for research excellence. These changes have given us a fresh perspective that led to a shift in priorities and as a result, some of the actions in the 2017-2019 plan have been reviewed and revised.

From a research perspective, we are starting with pockets of limited research in all our Schools.

Developments since July 2017

University Research Strategy

The [University of Suffolk Research Strategy](#) outlines how the University of Suffolk, as one of the leading universities in the UK, will continue to be a leading university, known for its distinctive, impactful and innovative research in its specialist fields by 2023.

Distinctive Research

University of Suffolk vision is to be known for its distinctive, impactful and innovative research in distinctive areas. Reflecting the key disciplines in which we are establishing a national reputation for Higher Education provision, the LEP priority areas and our research trajectory to date, we aim to underpin our distinctive research portfolio focusing on:

Creative and Digital Technologies

Crime and Social Justice

Health and Wellbeing

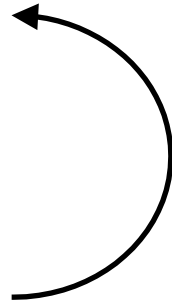
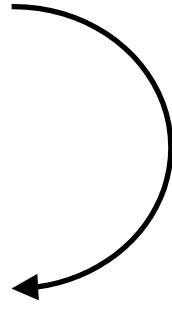
History and Heritage

Pedagogy/Learning and Teaching

Sustainability /Energy

Active engagement in scholarship

We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities in line with the University Research Strategy and Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. A comprehensive programme for research training in research methods, ethics and research conduct is in place to support staff in the development of knowledge, understanding and skills related to research, academic scholarship, research supervision and public engagement.



Recruitment, development and retention

The University is committed to recruiting, developing and retaining researchers of the highest

Research staff mentoring scheme and the introduction of the School Research Lead role

The Schools have each appointed a School Research Lead as part of the School Executive, who will act as an interface between the domains of School activities, research development and quality assurance of research outputs.

Main duties:

To support strategic leadership for research activities in the School.

To work with the Dean of School to support the School in meeting its targets for research outputs.

To work with the Dean of School to identify priorities for research development and resourcing.

To support staff in developing high quality research bids, activities and outputs in compliance with robust ethical considerations and funding specifications.

To ensure research-led teaching is fore-grounded in course delivery by working closely with the School Teaching and Learning lead and course leads in relation to learning and teaching and curriculum development

To review and develop School based research clusters/groupings/institutes and centres.

To work closely with the Director of Research and Graduate School in increasing the number of doctoral students and completions in the School.

To enhance the research environment and culture of the School through collaborating with the Research Development Manager in the arrangement of training events, workshops and