

Research and Innovation Policy Statement

Reviewed: August 2026



RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION POLICY STATEMENT**Aim**

This Policy Statement sets out our approach to foster a culture of research excellence, impact and collaboration driving transformative research and innovation to address global challenges and fuel economic growth locally, nationally and globally. The University of the West of Scotland (UWS) is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in research and scholarship and supporting a positive environment where researchers can innovate, grow professionally and deliver impactful solutions for the benefit of business society and the economy. This Policy Statement sets out the broad principles by which the University operates and should be read along with the related guidelines, procedures and protocols referred to below.

Scope

This Policy Statement and all referenced guidelines, procedures and protocols apply to all staff and students of the University unless otherwise indicated within the scope of the individual policy related document.

Principles

These principles uphold and reflect the University's core values of Integrity, Respect, Inclusivity and Accountability, ensuring our research culture is values-led and aligned to UWS Strategy 2030.

The University is fully committed to ensuring that our research governance arrangements: -

- commit to the highest standards of rigour, integrity and ethics in all aspects of research
- ensure procedures are transparent and applied consistently, reinforcing accountability
- are open, inclusive and transparent.
- meet all relevant legal requirements and obligations, demonstrating respect for staff, students, partners and participants
- promote collaboration and partnership and policy influence in ways that reflect inclusivity and mutual respect
- support researcher development and well-being, fostering an inclusive and supportive research environment.
- drive innovation and impact
- promote knowledge transfer, commercialisation and public engagement
- align with environmental and sustainability goals.

As part of our commitment, we: -

- support a research environment that promotes good practice and is underpinned by fair and transparent processes to deal with allegations of misconduct in research when they arise

- enable and support best practice in research data management at UWS, reflecting the University's commitment to the UK Concordat on Open Research Data.
- provide support and guidance to help individuals to identify when export controls and sanctions might apply, setting out the procedure to be followed to ensure compliance with export control and sanctions legislation.
- provide clear guidelines and standards to support Doctoral Student progression and well-being.
- will provide guidance and advice to staff to encourage the early identification of intellectual property and allow successful exploitation for the mutual and equitable benefit of all contributing parties.
- will ensure it has appropriate procedures in place for the management of consultancy activities and service work provided by the University's staff under the auspices of the university.

Responsibilities

The endorsement and upholding of the principles of this Policy Statement are the responsibility of the Court. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is responsible for leading the activities within the University, which fall under this Policy Statement.

Approval

This Policy Statement was endorsed by the Research and Innovation Committee on 16 February 2026 and approved at Resources and People Committee on 3 June 2026.

Monitoring and Review

This Policy Statement will be reviewed annually or as needed due to changes in legislation, standards or sector good practice or where a reorganisation changes ownership, responsibility or accountability. All related Guidelines, Procedures and Protocols will be reviewed annually in line with the University's Annual Compliance Monitoring Statement.

Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment was carried out on 9 February 2026.

Related Guidelines, Procedures and Protocols

Code of Research Practice and Research Ethics

Consultancy Procedure

Doctoral College Code of Practice

Exploitation of Intellectual Property Procedure

Export Controls and Sanctions Procedure

Good Practice in Research Authorship

Guidelines for Ethical Practice in Research and Scholarship

Institutional Rights Retention Procedure

Procedure for investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research

Research Data Management Procedure