UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Research Strategy

2019 - 2025

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Approval History

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Document History

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1. Background

The Research Strategy contributes to the achievement of the institution's new vision towards being *'the Centre of Excellence for Built Environment Education'.*

With Academic Excellence as one of our six central UCEM organisation goals, there is the recognition of the value of research in supporting academic excellence. This research strategy sets out UCEM plans and activities for the period 2019 through to 2025 and recognises the value of research in supporting independence, academic excellence, and the new vision.

This document outlines the strategy for research, and any research collaborations, undertaken by UCEM to reflect the expectations of the Royal Charter, Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), accrediting bodies and obligations as a Higher Education Provider with Taught Degree Awarding Powers.

Our Royal Charter states that UCEM is constituted partly *"to organise, encourage and stimulate postgraduate studies and research for all other persons concerned in, or intending to be concerned in, managing, developing, admeasuring, valuing or dealing in, or with, land, buildings or other property and to encourage by educational methods the study of and research into all subjects pertaining thereto and the value thereof".*

In addition to being part of the core purpose of UCEM's existence, research contributes to meeting the Quality Assurance Agency's requirement that Higher Education Providers with taught degree awarding powers demonstrate that they are 'a well-founded, cohesive and self-critical academic community that can demonstrate firm guardianship of its standards' (QAA, 2013). To evidence this requirement, Higher Education Providers need to demonstrate how teaching staff (QAA, 2013);

- Maintain a close and professional understanding of current developments in research and scholarship in their subjects and that structured opportunities for them to do so are widely taken up;

- Have relevant knowledge and understanding of current research and advanced scholarship in their discipline area and that such knowledge and understanding directly inform and enhance their teaching;

- Are actively engaged with research and/or advanced scholarship at a level commensurate with the degree on which they teach.

This Research Strategy aligns with the guiding principles of the UK Quality Code, Advice and Guidance: Research Degrees (QAA, 2018) including providing a platform for staff and students where UCEM can:

- Provide an appropriate and supportive research environment;

- Provision of information that is clear and accessible;

- Opportunities for professional development.

UCEM endeavours to provide 'an institution-wide culture of scholarship informed teaching' by a range of means. UCEM culture of research impacted scholarship is also informed by the Code of Practice: Research & Scholarship. This strategy links with our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy.

University College of Estate Management (UCEM) is a research-informed institution that builds scholarship into its learning and teaching. The Research Strategy is driven to meet UCEM vision and goals, building research capacity across the institution, particularly in its academic staff, and will ensure dissemination to inform UCEM curriculum and practices.

With a breadth of industry contacts, experience in design/delivery, direct engagement with and through professionally accredited courses, UCEM seeks to bring into the learning, and hence expose students to, the latest developments in professional practice.

The research model forms the basis for this research strategy which identifies strategic research goals, plans and resources required to achieve the goals.

2. Research Strategic Objectives

The strategy is organised around three main interrelated drivers for its research strategy:

- Aid meeting UCEM's overarching aims of the strategic vision;

- Enhance research capability and capacity within UCEM;

- Disseminate research undertaken at UCEM.

2.1 Aid meeting UCEM's overarching aims of the strategic vision

- Enable UCEM to meet its overarching aims of the Strategic Vision towards becoming '*the Centre of Excellence for Built Environment Education'*;

- Ensure that an environment is provided which allows for the research to flourish in line with the requirement of an independent provider in possession of taught degree awarding powers;

- Develop a plan to achieve Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP);

- Build on the institution's ethos of industry relevance and currency, through growing an applied and vocational research offer;

- Enhance Research Centres as the driving force for UCEM online, pedagogical, and discipline-specific research; to grow a sustainable research community.

- Inform and enrich UCEM professionally accredited programmes, both current and future, through research activity, facilitating evidence informed best practice to engage staff and support the student learning experience;

- Support all students through providing a learning environment which develops their research and scholarship skills.

2.2 Enhance research capability and capacity within UCEM

- Enhance UCEM reputation through drawing on our industry and practice-based knowledge, skills, and experiences to deliver and inform our research through professionally accredited courses;

- Create an enabling research environment through investing in developing research capacity and capability to establish an institutional research culture that aims to encourage and broaden base of research active staff;

- Provide a research support, coaching, and mentoring programme for UCEM staff;

- Engage in research that complements sectoral national and international research strategies and priorities (having social, environmental, or economic impact);

- Where resources permit seek and provide funding to support staff to engage with the professional and Higher Education sector by attending strategically aligned CPD, conferences, seminars and engaging with peers in subject-based forums;

- Seek to grow research activities through investing strategically in staff appointments to support institutional research interests and goals;

- Establish a staffing structure that recognises excellence allowing a clear progression route.

2.3   Disseminate research undertaken at UCEM

- Disseminate knowledge to relevant stakeholders to increase profile through reports; books/chapters; academic journals, conference papers; professional journals; conference presentations, workshops; use of social media and other artefacts;

- Increase the visibility and accessibility of UCEM research and scholarly activity by making available to students, staff, and the wider sector;

- Support student and staff research through contributing to awards or bursaries for excellence in research;

- Grow our research events, meetings, and lecture series through the research centres;

- Inspire collaborative links and partnerships to support influential research;

- Participate in appropriate organisations that promote research and innovation.

3. Implementation and evaluation

- This research strategy will be considered and approved by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure congruence with the overarching strategic vision;

- The research strategy contained herein will be implemented through the UCEM Research Implementation Plan. The plan is to be approved by the Research Committee and ratified by the Senior Leadership Team;

- The Code of Practice Research and Scholarship will provide operational guidance and policy for its implementation;

- The implementation of the research strategy will be reviewed annually.

4. References

- **UCEM Royal Charter and Bye-Laws** available on the UCEM website;

- **UCEM Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2016-2020** available on the UCEM website;

- UCEM Strategic Vision;

- University of Cumbria 'Research, Innovation and Enterprise Strategy 2018-21. Available at: https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/media/university-of-cumbria-website/content-assets/public/researchoffice/documents/ResearchStrategy.pdf [Accessed 19 June 2019];

- QAA (2013) 'Guidance on scholarship and the pedagogical effectiveness of staff: Expectations for Foundation Degree-awarding powers and for taught degree-awarding powers. Available at: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/guidance-on-scholarship-and-pedagogical-effectiveness-jan-13.pdf?sfvrsn=e554f781_6 [Accessed 17 June 2019];

- QAA (2018) 'UK Quality Code for Higher Education: Advice and Guidance, Research Degrees. Available at: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/research-degrees [Accessed 16 June 2019].