



Terms of Reference:	
Committee Name:	Research and Innovation Committee
Reporting:	Reports to Council
Sub-Committees	N/A
Endorsed:	
Research and Innovation Committee	14 November 2025
Governance and Nominations Committee	27 November 2025 (via e-circulation)
Council	9 December 2025

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Research and Innovation Committee is, via the early review and discussion of papers prepared for Council to:

- Provide independent oversight and scrutiny of the University’s Research and Impact, Business Engagement and Innovation activities and seek assurance on behalf of Council on institutional progress against key elements of Strategy 2030 related to Research and Innovation;

Not all items within scope will be considered on an annual basis and the Committee will only consider reports scheduled to be considered by Council. The Schedule of Business of the Research and Innovation Committee will therefore align with the longer-term forward plan for Council which is reviewed and developed over a 2-3 year time horizon. In addition, papers scheduled for Part II of the Council agenda will not generally be prior reviewed by the Committee.

Responsibilities

- To seek and receive assurance on progress against delivery of the University’s relevant strategies, including: the Research and Impact Strategy; Business Engagement and Innovation Strategy; and Doctoral College Strategy;
- To review and discuss key strategic issues relating to Research and Innovation in support of the University’s strategic priorities, with a focus on enhancing research and innovation income, research power, research integrity, research impact and excellence;
- To review and receive assurance on the University’s participation and performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), including the three key elements of:
 - People, Culture and Environment
 - Knowledge and Understanding
 - Engagement and Impact
- To review and receive assurance on key aspects of Business and Innovation, including:
 - University Spin Outs
 - Business and Industry Engagement and Partnerships
 - Enterprise and commercialisation activity

- To review and seek assurance on the other major research and innovation assessment exercises, including the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), and any future research assessment exercises.
- To review and receive assurance in relation to Ethics, Governance and Integrity;
- To review and consider periodic reports on research performance and generation of research income, including discussion of research income pipeline, new opportunities and horizon scanning;
- To review, consider and discuss the strategic impetus and major drivers for key strategic initiatives (as defined in the Council Scheme of Delegation in the Delegation Framework) relating to research prior to formal endorsement of Business Cases by the Finance and Investment Sub-Committee;
- To review and endorse any relevant reports progressing to Council that sit within the scope of these Terms of Reference. This will include annual reports which require Council endorsement, including:
 - the Annual Report and Statement of Research Integrity;
 - Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers – Signatory Annual Report.

Membership

Independent Council Membership

Professor Malcolm Skingle (**Chair**) (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council)

Damaris Anderson Supple (Independent Member of Council)

Karime Hassan (Independent Member of Council)

Professor Adrian Harris (Independent Member of Council)

UEB Council Membership

Professor Dan Charman (Senior Vice-President and Provost)

Senate Council Representatives

Professor Karen Knapp (Senate Council Representative)

In Attendance

Professor Krasimira Tsaneva-Atanasova, Vice-President and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Impact)

Stuart Brocklehurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Business Engagement and Innovation)

Additional attendees may be invited to attend for specific agenda items by exception at the request of UEB leads and in prior consultation and agreement with the Chair.

Sub-Groups

- Subject to endorsement by the Governance and Nominations Sub-Committee and approval by Council, the Research and Innovation Sub-Committee may establish a sub-group for such purpose as considered appropriate. The remit granted to such sub-group shall be specifically provided for in its Terms of Reference and approved by Council.

Meetings

- The Group will meet usually three times a year on a termly basis;
- Additional meetings may be held in order to meet business requirements at the request of the Chair.

Reporting

- A report on the work and effectiveness of the Committee will be provided to Council annually for information.
- All Council papers and reports related to research and innovation progressing to Council will be endorsed or otherwise commented on by the Committee prior to their consideration by Council. Papers progressing to Council within Part II, will not typically be reviewed by the Research & Innovation Committee.
- Where reporting timeframes permit, relevant papers and reports will progress via Senate prior to consideration by Council or be received subsequently for information.

Delegated Authority

- The Research and Innovation Committee provides an assurance, oversight and advisory function and has no decision-making authority. The Group endorses items for decision making to Council.

Effectiveness

- The effectiveness of the Research and Innovation Committee will be reviewed annually against its Terms of Reference by both the Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee and any appropriate changes will be determined by the Governance and Nominations Committee and recommended to Council for approval.