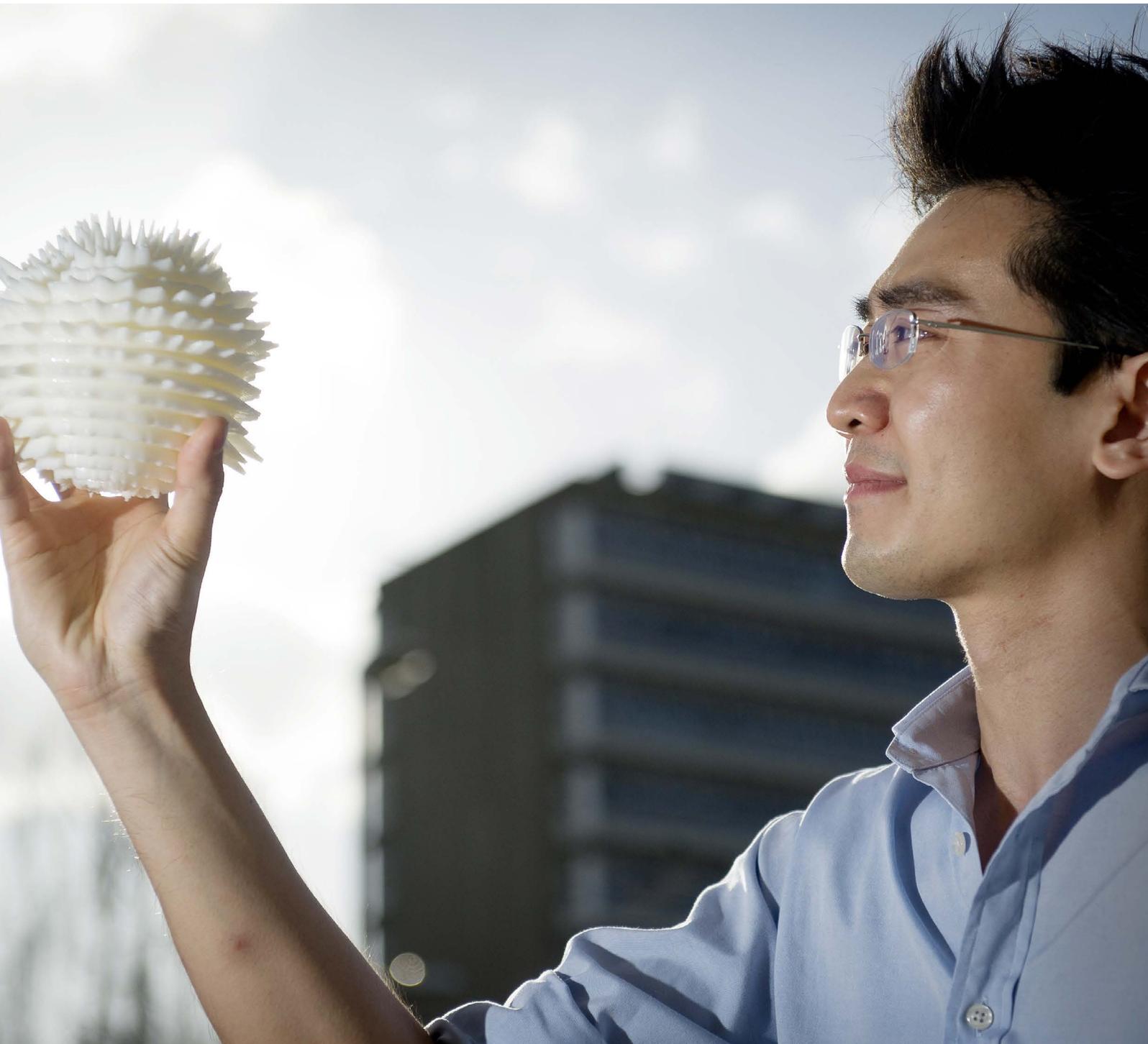
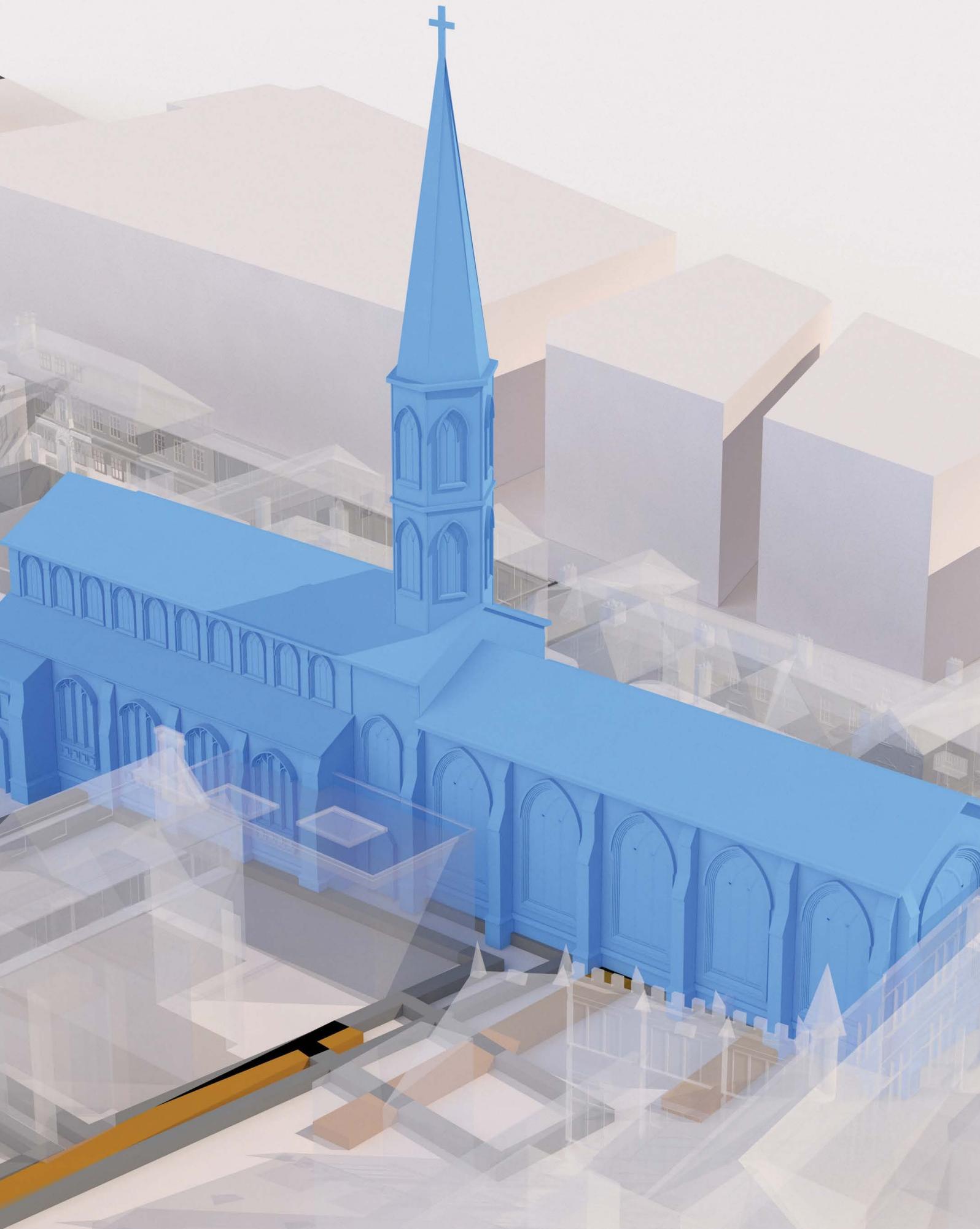


RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY **2013–17**





CREATIVE RESEARCH: DMU's Digital Building Heritage Team has brought Greyfriars Priory – where King Richard III's body was discovered - back to digital life.

WELCOME

De Montfort University (DMU) is celebrated for creativity and innovation – and nowhere is that more evident than in the breadth of its research.

We are home to internationally renowned research groups and our reputation for collaborative 'real world' research with impact is growing around the world.

There is much to be proud of at DMU, and we have bold plans to develop our research by building and consolidating new collaborations. We aim to combine academic quality with work that makes a difference to society – reflecting our passionate belief in the university as a public good.

This Research and Innovation Strategy 2013-17 sets out our plans to achieve this by promoting an exciting mix of 'blue skies' research, applied research and enterprise activity that will have an immediate effect on society, industry and the economy.

I am pleased to launch this strategy at a time when Government thinking is once again beginning to recognise the vital role that university-led research and enterprise has to play in stimulating the national economy. I believe De Montfort University is particularly well-placed in this respect: our research groups are developing new technologies which will help revive key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, the creative industries, transport and construction.

The academic reach of the university is now substantial, ranging from areas as diverse as the study of the human brain (we are a participant in the European Commission's one billion Euro Human Brain Project) to work aimed at bringing reliable electricity to rural Africa.

We will also be training the next generation of researchers in the arts and humanities through a partnership with five other Midlands universities.

Central to the strategy is of course you, our talented staff. We are here to encourage you and support the development of your research career through individual plans and our Future Leaders programme.

Earlier this year, De Montfort University was awarded its 100th Knowledge Transfer Partnership. The award, from the Technology Strategy Board, will support a small contour fashion business.

In addition, money from the Higher Education Innovation Fund is being used in the early stage commercialisation of university-owned intellectual property in health and life sciences, including cancer studies and treatment for Parkinson's disease.



In providing this overview of our Research and Innovation Strategy, I am confident that its effect will be to spur you on to thinking how you can engage with me to achieve its aims; to translate DMU's know-how, ideas and innovative thinking into real-world solutions.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Collop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Professor Andy Collop
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation

CONTEXT

This Research and Innovation Strategy supports De Montfort University's strategic vision to be 'a university that places research excellence and innovation at the heart of our mission' as articulated in our Strategic Plan 2011-15. We believe passionately that universities are a public good and we aim to carry out research and scholarly activities that combine the highest academic quality with significance for, and impact on, the wider society.

The degree to which we have been able to attain research excellence was demonstrated in the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008. More than 70% of our research was judged to be of international quality with over 40% judged as 'internationally excellent' (3*) or 'world leading' (4*). This confirms our research strengths and potential.

We aim to have 4* research in all our faculties and we will build on our top performing areas, which from our Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 preparations include:

- Business and Management Studies
- Computer Science and Informatics
- English Language and Literature
- Social Work and Social Policy.

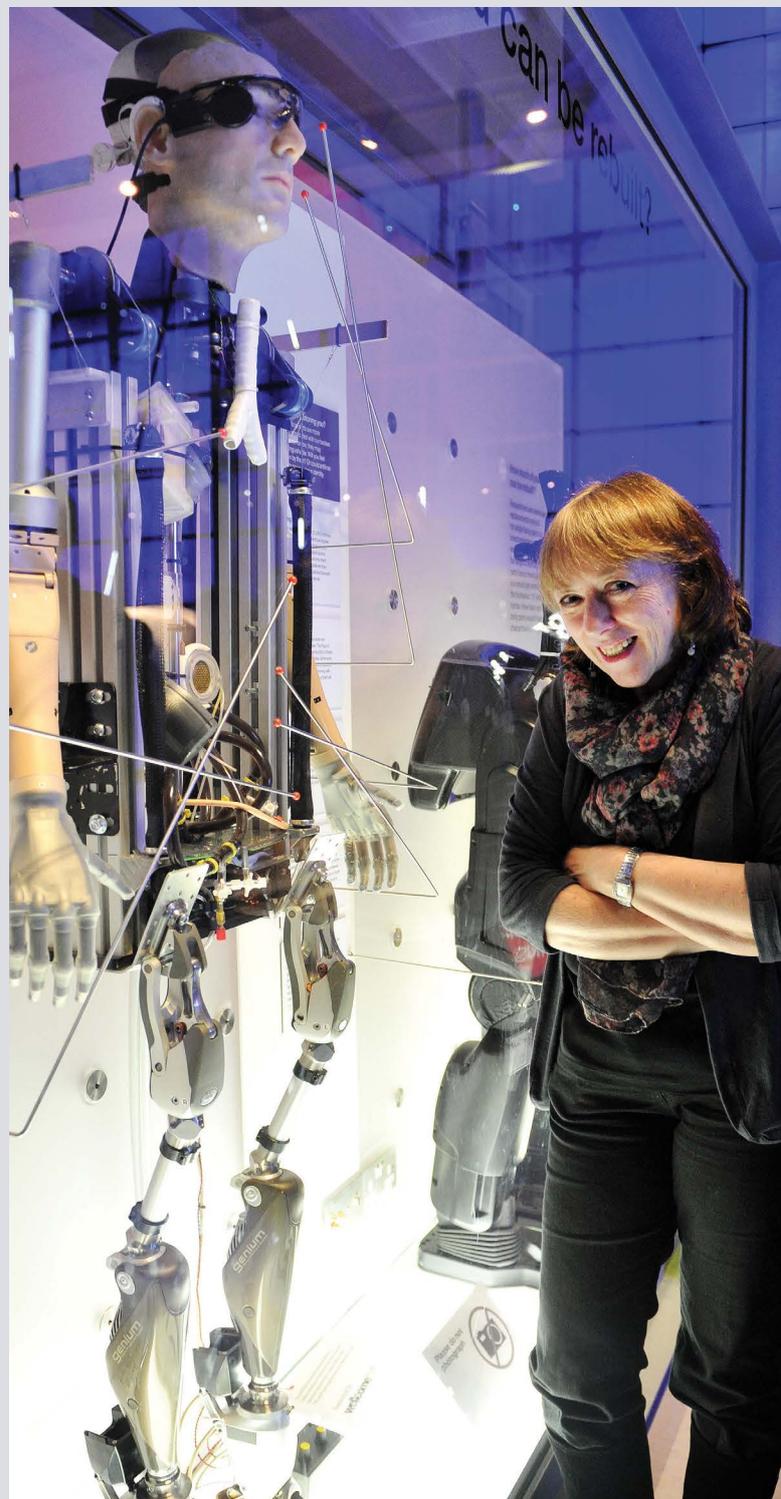
We recognise that the breadth and diverse range of high quality research activities at DMU must align with all aspects of our academic strategy. In addition to REF-aligned research, our research strengths include pedagogic research (as evidenced by our success in National Teaching Fellowships), near-market research, professional practice-related research and creative outputs and multi and inter-disciplinary research.

The external environment is rapidly changing in a number of key areas including:

- A more challenging funding climate and increased research concentration
- The growing importance of impact, where DMU research has a 'competitive advantage'
- The growing importance of multi and inter-disciplinary solutions to complex research questions. We will continue to be responsive to these changes.

"A university that places research excellence and innovation at the heart of its mission"

PIONEERING: Professor Joan Taylor's research to create an artificial pancreas was featured on Channel 4's Bionic Man documentary and has been taken to America's Smithsonian Museum



THEMES

Theme 1: Research Excellence

We are committed to creating a dynamic environment and pervasive research and scholarly culture that encourages academic staff to undertake ambitious, innovative and rigorous research.

We are committed to consolidating existing and developing new research collaborations with strong partners at home and abroad.

We have the commitment to carry out research of the highest quality. Increasing quality is a key target and we expect that by REF 2020 over 90% of our research will be of international quality with over 60% rated as 3* or 4*.

Our strategy for research development will be to focus growth in areas that are, or have the potential to be, 4*. This will require significant investment in staff, students and physical resources to ensure that these research groups have 'critical mass' and a sustainable research base underpinned by a broad range of income streams.

Faculties will produce annual research plans and will ensure that all research groups produce annual research plans containing strategies for external income generation, publications and targets for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relevant to the subject area, such as:

- External research grant income per academic Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
- External commercial income per academic FTE
- Number of PhD students per academic FTE
- Number of 3* or 4* outputs per academic FTE

Faculties are expected to provide financial incentives at research group level, based on plans and performance, to give a degree of autonomy to researchers to maximise the inputs to and outputs from their research.

It is recognised that many key future research challenges cross traditional boundaries. We will support multi and inter-disciplinary research where there is sufficient strength and quality in the underpinning discipline bases.

Through the Graduate School we will support the development of multi or inter-disciplinary Doctoral Training Programmes (DTPs) to provide critical mass and opportunities for externally marketing research strengths and expertise. We will also seek to improve the overall experience and environment for research students, including embedding training and employability skills in doctoral programmes.

We recognise the importance of investing in research and will provide highly selective competitive mechanisms to centrally fund research-related infrastructure, research scholarships, research leave and pump-priming research and innovation funding.

“DMU nurtures, recognises and rewards research talent in order to become a location of choice for staff at all career stages”

Theme 2: Researcher Development and Research Leadership

It is vitally important that we nurture, recognise and reward research talent in order to become a location of choice for staff at all career stages. Our aim is to support the development of all research staff and to nurture our Early Career Researchers (ECRs). This will be assisted by our adoption of the Researcher Development Framework.

We will seek to increase research capacity by increasing the number of research active academic staff in our focus areas through a combination of ECR and new academic appointments and support and development for existing staff who are able to initiate (or re-establish) a research career. This will increase supervisory capacity which will in turn allow us to maintain a critical mass of doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers.

We will support and develop our research active staff through the introduction of Individual Research Plans and the use of associated research allowances to give time to undertake high quality research.

We will strategically invest in future research leaders through a range of activities including a tailored developmental programme aimed at producing genuine leaders in the University. The first of these programmes began in the early part of 2013.

We understand the importance of ECRs being part of an active community and we expect schools and departments to ensure that these researchers are fully integrated into an existing research group, with access to mentoring opportunities, for example through our professoriate.

We will encourage and support our staff to apply for prestigious external fellowships and research awards, and we will support them in seeking to obtain doctorates (PhD or equivalent) and higher doctorates (DSc or equivalent) to demonstrate international excellence in research.

Theme 3: Impact and Visibility of our Research

Our research makes a real difference and strives to achieve excellence with impact. The demonstration of tangible research impacts to funders, investors and partners is vital for the future. We have great strengths in applied, multi and inter-disciplinary research and extensive collaborations and partnerships with key clients in industry, commerce, charities, public sector, professional bodies and community groups.

We will build on specific local initiatives (such as the internationally award-winning Mile² project) in order to ensure that our engagement strategies are credible and distinctive. Community-engaged research will become one of our key strategic priority areas for research support.

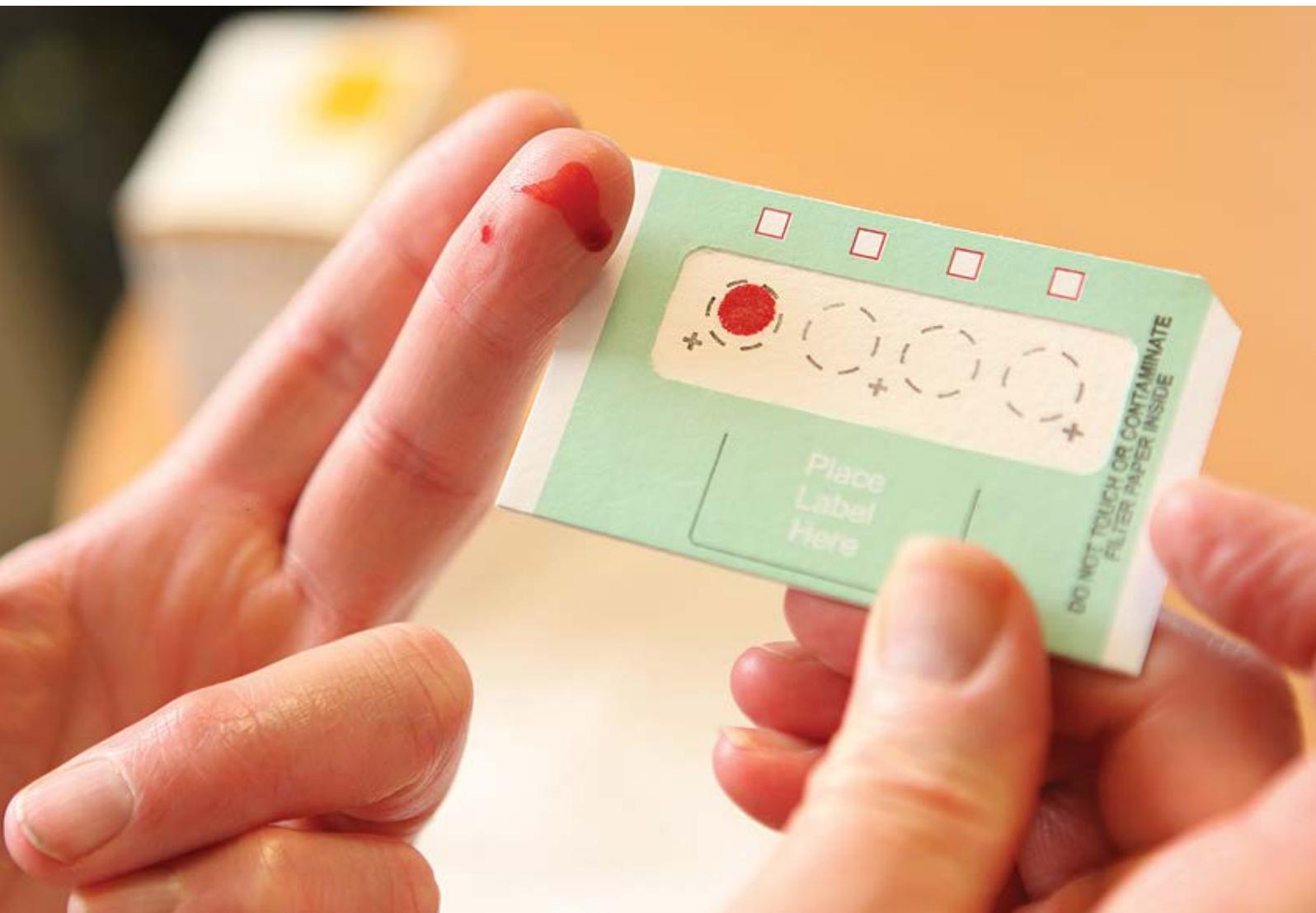
We will work with international, national and regional communities to disseminate the results from our research for the benefit of wider society. We will collaborate with businesses and other professional partners in our focus areas to ensure that as much of our research as possible is turned into new services and products.

We will ensure that our research feeds into our high quality teaching and learning to help provide students with the intellectual and practical skills (including research and enterprise skills) to assist them in gaining employment in an increasingly competitive job market. Our research focus areas provide excellent opportunities for industrial placements, internships and teaching by practitioners.

We will pursue a range of vehicles for providing knowledge exchange, including consultancy, bespoke in-house training, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and education programmes.

We will undertake extensive and targeted external marketing, public engagement and press activity, thus enhancing the visibility of our research and reinforcing our reputation as a university with which to do business. We will have a first-class presence for research and innovation on our DMU website.

LIFE SAVING: DMU's innovative dried blood spot analysis tests could save lives by monitoring medicine intakes.



Theme 4: Commercialisation

We have entered into a strategic partnership with an external organisation which will work with us to identify and develop our intellectual capital and create exploitable solutions. This will include exploring new models of intellectual property development, such as Easy Access IP.

We will continue to support the creation of spin-out companies to ensure that our best innovations are translated into practical benefits for the economy and wider society.

Through The Innovation Centre and its connections with other business incubation spaces in the city and county (e.g. Phoenix Square, in which DMU is a partner), we will continue to offer space to start-up companies and more established businesses with the aim of achieving 100% occupancy through a range of initiatives designed specifically to attract DMU's students and recent graduates.

We will work with organisations such as the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, Leicester City Council and the Confederation of British Industry to identify opportunities for staff and students to engage with local, regional and national organisations.

MONITORING

It is the responsibility of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Research and Innovation to drive this strategy; of the Director of Research, Business and Innovation Directorate to support research and commercial income generation, and to build research capacity; of the Director of the Graduate School to support research students and DTPs; and of the PVC/Deans and Heads of Research to oversee annual faculty and research group plans to ensure that the strategy can be achieved.

A broad range of institutional, faculty and research group KPIs will be developed so that progress can be monitored.

The alignment of principles, projects, people and programmes that is articulated in this strategy will help DMU achieve greater research success and wider international recognition. DMU is committed to ensuring that our research community is vibrant, intellectually exciting, and open to creative and novel solutions for the benefit of society and the wider environment.

This strategy will assist us in realising these priorities.

“Our research makes a real difference and strives to achieve excellence with impact”

“DMU is committed to ensuring that our research community is vibrant, intellectually exciting, and open to creative and novel solutions for the benefit of society and the wider environment”

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